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Baby girl

The Duchess of York holds her new baby girl as she leaves London's Portland hospital on Friday. The Dutchess gave birth last Friday.

UK deports N-plot Iraqi official

LONDON, March 31, (AP) Iraqi Airways executive Omar Latif, arrested in connection with a plot to smuggle nuclear triggering devices to Iraq, was deported from Britain today.

Iraq has denied it bought nuclear triggers and threatened retaliatory action if Latif was expelled.

A management company yesterday denied it had supplied sensitive equipment to Iraq without first clearing the transaction with the government.

The Washington Times said on Thursday that Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor, bombed in a 1981 Israeli raid, has begun producing weapons-grade nuclear material.

Rabta may still be operative, says US

WASHINGTON, March 31, (Reuters) The United States said yesterday Libya's Rabta plant suspected of producing chemical weapons may still be operational despite a fire there earlier this month and an elaborate hoax could not be ruled out.

"The US government is reviewing all the available evidence relating to the March 14 events at Rabta," said State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher.

Asked whether the fire could have been a hoax by Libyan President Muammar Khaddafi intended to hoodwink the world into believing the plant was destroyed, Boucher said the possibility could not be ruled out.

"Important uncertainties remain regarding both the cause and extent of damage at Rabta. Therefore no definitive conclusions have been reached. The possibility remains that Libya can still produce chemical warfare agents," he said.

The new assessment was in stark contrast to that offered by Bush administration spokesmen two days after the fire.

Then, both the White House and State Department said damage from the mystery fire had been extensive and concluded that "production is now impossible."

A senior official said the amount of available evidence had grown since then and "needed careful analysis. Commercial satellite photographs taken a few days after the fire showed much of the plant intact with little apparent structural damage."

The possibility of a hoax first surfaced last week when a Libyan opposition group alleged the blaze was staged.

In Tunis, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat defended Libya and Iraq against Western criticism of their arms industries and said the West was applying double standards on human rights.

"Why all this row about Libya and the factory at Rabta? And now there's a new campaign against Iraq. They say it's for the sake of human rights. Oh yes? And what about the human rights of the Palestinians?" he told a Land Day rally in Tunis.

Arafat said Israel had been using chemical weapons against Palestinians in the occupied territories for 27 months with the support of the United States. "It's not tear gas, it's chemical weapons, as Belgian doctors have proved," he said.

Polish diplomats shot at in Beirut

Anger at exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel

BEIRUT, March 31, (Agencies) A clandestine group claimed responsibility today for shooting two Poles in Syrian-policed Muslim west Beirut and warned Warsaw against aiding the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Across the religious divide in Lebanon's Maronite heartland rival Christians resumed artillery duels in east Beirut and nearby

mountains. The previously unknown "Revolutionary Action Organisation, the Arab Resistance Front -- the Martyr Suleiman Al Halabi Unit" group said it attempted to kill two Polish diplomats.

Serkis, 47, and his wife Ewa, 30, were shot last night as they were parking their car, bearing diplomatic plates, near their home in the Hamra district.

Hospital sources said Serkis was hit in the face and stomach and was in stable condition today after an operation. His wife was shot in the leg.

Lebanese police had said Serkis was a commercial attaché at Warsaw's Beirut embassy.

The clandestine group said in a hand-written statement delivered to the offices of the Syrian leftist As-Safir newspaper it was behind the "Polish diplomats' operation."

"We warn the Polish government against providing any help in transporting Soviet Jews to our sacred Palestinian land," the underground group said.

The Polish government offered to transport the Israeli-bound Soviet Jews last Sunday after Hungary's Malev Airline stopped charter and some scheduled flights to Israel because of the threats.

Malev later resumed scheduled flights to Israel and halted them to Beirut.

Hours after the attack, Poland said its offer to transport Soviet Jews to Israeli stood despite the shooting.

Today's fighting in Lebanon's Christian enclave followed a brief morning lull which allowed thousands of civilians to leave bomb shelters to inspect and stock up food.

Political sources said Maronite Christian political and church leaders, desperate to end an army-militia conflict that has killed 800 people since January, told Aoun on Thursday they were ready to call in Lebanon's internationally-recognised President, Elias Hrawi.

The ultimatum to Aoun was sent by Maronite notables summoned on Thursday by their patriarch, Nasrallah Butros Sfeir. Aoun did not attend but his antagonist in the Christian civil war, Lebanese Forces militia chief Samir Geagea did.

Political sources said the leaders agreed to urge Hrawi to intervene to end the inter-Christian war.

"All leaders agreed that there will be no solution in east Beirut except through resorting to the legitimate authority of President Hrawi," one Christian political source told Reuters.

He said the Maronite leaders told Aoun he had 48 hours to "either accept their agreement or come up with a substitute."

"Instead, Aoun replied by waging an offensive," the source added.



A Lebanese policeman points to where bullets tore into the car of two Polish diplomats who were attacked by gunmen on Friday night in Muslim west Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

30 killed, 40 hurt in Beirut

Rival Christians resume battle

BEIRUT, March 31, (UPI) Rival Christian forces resumed fierce battles yesterday over a strategic mountainous region northeast of Beirut's Christian enclave following a lull during the night, security sources said.

The sources said troops loyal to Gen. Michel Aoun and militiamen of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces traded with heavy machinegun fire and artillery along a 4-mile (6 km) front in the Christian heartland of Kesrouwane.

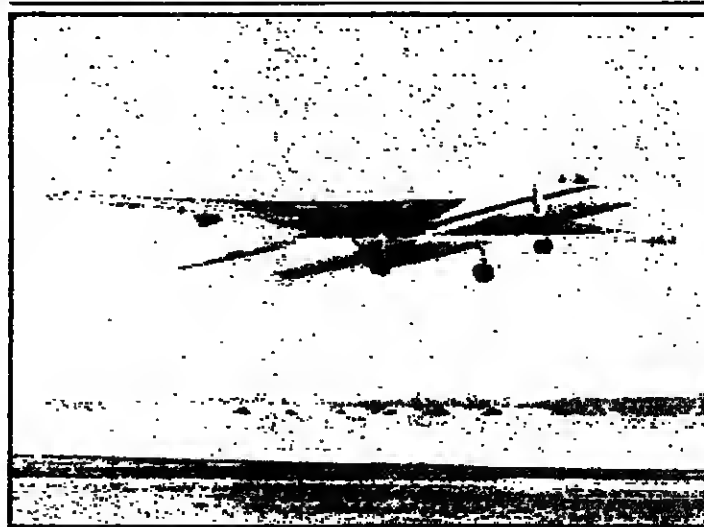
They added that fierce clashes raged around the village of Qlaia, 12 miles (20 km) northeast of Beirut with shells slamming the residential areas of Beit Meri, Brouma, Bikfaya and Daraya.

The militia-run Voice of Free Lebanon radio station accused Aoun's forces of shelling the Lebanese Forces headquarters in Karantina, the vicinity of Beirut port and

Ashrafiyyeh in east Beirut. Tens of terrified families took advantage of the short lull in the morning to flee what they described as "hell in Christian areas." Scores of men, women, elderly and children crossed on foot and in cars the museum and the newly-opened port passageways linking east Beirut to the Muslim side of the capital.

At least 30 people were killed and 40 others were wounded yesterday in the 9-hour violence that started in and around Qlaia and spread to other frontlines in the mountains and the capital.

The east Beirut-based Ad Diyar newspaper said 1,000 combatants from both sides were involved in the battles, using US-made M-48 tanks, Soviet-built T-55 tanks and as many as 200 artillery pieces.



World record

The Soviets have claimed a new world record in high altitude flying. Their Mi-17 "Stratosphere" piloted by senior test pilot Vladimir Arkhipenko, flew to height of 21,000 metres. The plane, in the 16-20 tonne class, is shown taking off near Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)

Two passers-by killed in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, March 31, (Reuters) Two passers-by were killed and four wounded today in cross-fire between paramilitary troops and militants in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-ruled Kashmir and centre of a Muslim revolt, police said.

DAY BY DAY

PRESENTLY, there is much talk about the price hike and its adverse consequences against consumers.

Traditionally, some merchants exploit the opportunities we provide them by rushing to stockpile on commodities -- needed or otherwise. This creates a short-supply and increased demand.

Naturally, the shortage in supply is further manipulated artificially by merchants to harvest their mischievous designs. However, in all candor blame should be appropriate on consumers who provide the merchants with large leverage.

We should play carefully the "Mouse and Cat" game with the merchants. If we do that, the merchants will not dare to hike prices.

Zahed Matar

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

Miss Vineet Sethi has won the First Full House prize. She will receive KD100. Game No. 76 continues for the Second and Third Full House prizes.

NEWSWATCH



Charged

Julio Gonzalez, a Cuban national charged in the deaths of 87 people at a Bronx social club fire, elapses his hands together during preliminary court proceedings. (Reuters wirephoto) (See Page 4)

Earthslide kills 10

NEW DELHI, March 31, (Reuters) Ten people, including a six-month-old baby, were killed today when an earthslide buried mud huts in a squatter colony on the outskirts of Delhi, Indian news agencies reported.

\$16m heroin seized

JERUSALEM, March 31, (Reuters) Israeli drug agents seized 31 kg of heroin, worth about \$16 million, from a ship at Haifa port, police said today.

Bodies found

NICOSIA, March 31, (Reuters) The bodies of four Cypriots -- two sisters and their children -- were found with gunshot wounds in an apartment in the coastal resort of Limassol today, police said.

Rapist sentenced

MOSCOW, March 31, (Reuters) A rapist and murderer who preyed on women students in the Soviet central Asian city of Alma-Ata and gave his unsuspecting sister their shoes and jewellery, has been sentenced to death. Tass reported on Saturday.

Station blasted

HONG KONG, March 31, (AP) An explosion rocked a crowded train station in the southern Chinese city of Canton, killing five people and injuring more than 30 others, pro-Beking newspapers reported Saturday.

No meddling pledge

BANGKOK, March 31, (AP) The new army chief, Gen. Suchinda Krapayoon, has pledged that the army will not meddle in politics. Thai newspapers reported Saturday.

Sofia missiles

SOFIA, March 31, (AP) Bulgaria has 72 short-range missiles, eight of them Soviet-made SS-23s with a maximum range of 500 kilometres (312 miles), a Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

Ramadan timings

Imrak 4.08 am
Iftar 4.18 pm

Estonia sets off for independence

MOSCOW, March 31, (AP) The Estonian republic has set off for independence from the Soviet Union, but is following a different path than its Baltic cohort Lithuania.

The republic's Supreme Soviet yesterday declared Soviet Union to be an occupying power and pledged to restore full independence at the end of a still-undetermined transition period.

During the transitional phase, the republic is to work out its future governmental structure and settle differences with Moscow, according to the measure.

Estonia at one time was the boldest of the three independence-minded Baltic republics, including its 1988 declaration of the right to veto Soviet laws.

But Lithuania since has taken the front-line position, declaring itself independent on March 11. That provoked a war of nerves with the Kremlin that occasionally has erupted into skirmishes such as yesterday's occupation

by Interior Ministry troops of the republican prosecutor's office and the earlier rounding up of military deserters.

Estonian activists say they want to have their economy and government organised before declaring independence and also note that they must move more slowly than Lithuania because they do not have such a large majority in their own republic.

Lithuanians make up 80 per cent of their republic, but only 60 per cent of Estonia's residents are ethnic Estonians. The third Baltic republic, Latvia, located between Estonia and Lithuania, is only about 50 per cent ethnic Latvian and is moving most slowly.

The Soviet annexation of Estonia in 1940 -- along with Lithuania and Latvia -- "did not end the existence of the Estonian republic," said a resolution passed by a vote of 75-0 with three abstentions.

(See Page 2)



Highway protest

Women mourn over their dead donkeys and block the national highway near Matruha in the northern state of UP. Seven donkeys were knocked down dead by a speeding tanker. Within minutes, hundreds of village women sat in the middle of the highway for several hours, demanding compensation and blocking the traffic in the protest. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Murderer' admits eating part of victim's body

TOKYO, March 31, (Reuters) A Japanese man charged with kidnapping and murdering four little girls told a court yesterday he had eaten some of the flesh of one of his victims, according to press reports.

The reports said Tsutomu Miyazaki, 27, made the admission when he appeared before a judge for the first court proceedings since his arrest last August.

Miyazaki admitted virtually all the prosecution charges as read out in court, but

denied the kidnap-murders were premeditated. The children's ages ranged from four to seven.

"On the whole, my feeling (about the crimes) was that I did them in a dream," he was quoted as saying.

The series of horrific murders in and around Tokyo in 1988 and 1989 shook the whole nation and raised questions about Japan's casual tolerance of violent pornography.

Police said at the time of Miyazaki's arrest that his bedroom was filled with thousands of pornographic videotapes and comics.

The court heard that Miyazaki, an employee at his father's printing works, dismembered his victims' bodies and videotaped them.

Yesterday's hearing drew more public attention than the first court hearing late last year over the sensational Recruit shares-for-favours scandal.

Chinese chief justice defends legal system

The report said authorities conducted arbitrary arrests, detained prisoners incommunicado without charge or trial, and imprisoned or executed others after unfair trials.

10 separatists killed in Kashmir
'Pakistan won't go to war with India'

The secessionist movement flared anew on Jan 20 when Muslim youths took to the streets to protest a government crackdown on the militants. More than 300 people have been

Officials in Srinagar, the state's summer capital and the focal point of the separatist movement, said police fatally shot dead a curfew violator in Srinagar yesterday. The body of a suspected police informer was found in the city and militants have claimed responsibility, they said.

India, US sign anti-drug pact

The pact was signed by Manmohan

"Today, the United States and India have entered a new partnership through the signing of a mutual co-operation agreement on drug-related matters," Levitsky said. "This formal document will make it easier for our two friendly, democratic governments to work together."

India has become a major transit point for heroin shipments to the West, most of the supplies being smuggled from the rugged border areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Many experts say a large percentage of the shipments come from opium produced and sold by US-backed Afghan rebels.

Levitsky said he has discussed the matter personally with rebel leaders and that "a number of the commanders" have agreed to reduce the cultivation of poppies, from which is obtained the opium that is refined into heroin.

Delhi fails to extend direct rule in Punjab

Singh took office in December promising Punjab a new state assembly and made a series of concessions aimed at wooing popular support away from the secessionists.

Byelorussia demands Lithuanian territory

Forces occupy newspaper office

Lithuanian pro-independence leaders say their Baltic republic was annexed forcibly under the secret Molotov-Ribbentrop pact.

Soviet army paratroopers carry automatic weapons after a training jump in Lithuania. (Reuter wirephoto)

Latest official survey shows 50,000 Aids carriers in Thailand

Dr Gary Slutkin of the World Health Organisation (Who) told reporters on Friday the AIDS epidemic had spread from intravenous drug users

"This is only the tip of the iceberg. No country can ever know the full extent of the disease," Slutkin said. He was one of a 12-member team charged with reviewing the first year of a national

The programme — which received \$4.7 million in assistance from WHO and foreign governments — involves education campaigns, condom distribution and blood testing.

Slutkin said the latest figures were based on a new system of testing which involved identical samples in 31 provinces of both high and low risk groups.

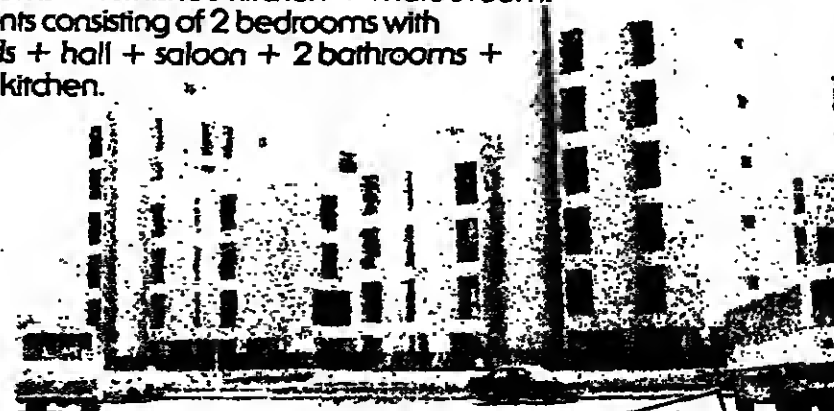
"In Thailand we are detecting the beginning of heterosexual transmission in Asia because of

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4 shot dead in Nepa

KATHMANDU, March 31. (Reuters): Nepalese police have shot dead at least four more people in battles with residents of a Kathmandu suburb protesting against the arrest of political activists, witnesses and government sources today.

Witnesses said two people were shot dead today and a nurse was critically wounded when police opened fire on several thousand demonstrators in Lalitpur district.

Government sources said police shot dead two men during house-to-house searches in Lalitpur late last night after the town erupted in protest against government crackdown on a six-week-old campaign for multi-party

The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), an alliance of political parties banned for 30 years, has launched protests against New

The MRD has appealed to Nepal's King Birendra, who is above the constitution, to stop police breaking up its demonstrations and arrest hundreds of its activists.

been influenced by communist extremists."

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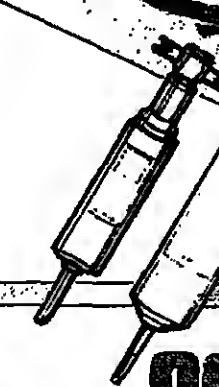
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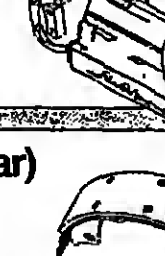
■ For most Japanese cars Starting from KD **5⁵⁰⁰**

while-u-wait



Transmission


■ For most U.S. cars KD **89⁰⁰⁰**



Brakes (Front or Rear)

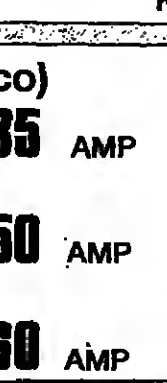
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PEOPLE AND PLACES

AUSTIN, Texas: Told that Robert Caro was a long time associate of Lyndon B. Johnson, he remarked: "Who let him in?"

The Pulitzer prize-winning author says he expects to come in for criticism in Texas for his dark portrayal of Johnson in the second volume of his biography of the late president. But he thinks critics are missing the point.

"I wanted to show the transformation," Caro was quoted as saying in an interview published in the Austin American-Statesman. "I don't write biographies just to show the lives of famous men. I wanted to show what happened with American politics at the dawn of a new age of media politics," he added. The turning point was the 1948 Democratic primary for the US Senate between Johnson and former governor Coke Stevenson.

"Nobody had ever run a campaign like that before," said Caro, who in his book Means of Access portrayed Johnson as evil and Stevenson as a romantic, heroic figure.

Caro, 53, said the same vigorous reaction greeted his first volume, Path to Power.

The initial reaction is controversy. After a while, all that's left is the book. The book endures," Caro said. (AP)

ALBANY, New York: Some movie stars stayed clear of Hollywood on Academy awards night.

Christopher Reeve, Susan Sarandon, Ron Silver, Jennifer Beales and Alec Baldwin, all members of the Creative Coalition, met with New York Governor Mario Cuomo and New York State legislators to promote environmental bills.

"I think sometimes there's a sceptical attitude about celebrities, that we just do quick hits," Reeve said. "We are a serious group."

The politically active artists' group has pledged to exploit its celebrity status to promote legislation in New York State that aims to protect the environment.

"State government has become more powerful as the federal government has withdrawn from matters of concern to the people of the state and the nation," said Silver, the organisation's president.

The group supports Cuomo's proposed \$1.9 billion environmental bond act, and will identify lawmakers who try to block pro-environment bills, Silver said.

Environmental lobbyist Lee Wasserman said the celebrities could prove a big boost.

"The reasons things don't get done on the environmental front is the public isn't fully aware of how the process works," Wasserman said. (AP)



The sisters

Right: A close up of the Duke and Duchess of York's baby girl as she left London's Portland Hospital March 30 in her mother's arms. Left: Princess Beatrice is escorted by her nanny to the hospital to see her mother. (Reuters wirephoto)

Longevity highest in Britain

LONDON, March 31. (Kuna): Britain has the highest proportion of elderly people in Europe, with 15.7 per cent of its population above pensionable age, it was reported in London.

This was disclosed in the statement marking the launch of a two-year study by the European commission into the problem of Europe's elderly population, the UK media said.

Latest predictions suggest that the number of people aged over 65 in Europe will rise from its present level of just over 14 per cent to almost a fifth of the population by the year 2020, the media pointed out.

According to the commission, there are already 100 million people in the European Economic Community over the age of 50 and their numbers are growing steadily.

In its statement issued in Brussels yesterday, the commission noted that, while people are living longer, the birthrate in the region had fallen dramatically.

OAK LAWN, Illinois: A robber who took \$6,600 from a bank in this suburb of west Chicago has sent back half the money by mail.

Heritage Bank of Oak Lawn confirmed that it received the money but police were not impressed. "Just because all of a sudden he gives the money back," does not mean he will walk away, said Oak Lawn police chief Frank Gilbert.

A video camera recorded the incident, and the tape is with the FBI investigators, said Oak Lawn detective Rick Kerrigan. (AP)

RIQUEWIHR, France: A museum in this eastern town is leading visitors on an aromatic journey through the 12 nations of the European Economic Community.

"By their power to evoke, odors are the vector of communication," said the aromatics Michael Motseff, who helped organise the exhibit. "Each person recognises a country by his experiences, which are recalled by the scents he imbibes."

In the show at the Musée Des PTT D'Alsace, people may jog their memories of Britain with smells of freshly cut grass offered in a picnic setting, Ireland smells of old whiskey, the Netherlands fresh cream, and Denmark features smoked fish. West Germany offers cinnamon, Belgium burned fat.

Greece is evoked with olive oil and oregano, Italy with capuccino. Spain features musty bull smells, and Portugal cod fish.

France is evoked by a perfume created especially for the exhibit. Only Luxembourg has not been assigned a national smell. It is represented by a safe. (AP)

Zsa Zsa

Community service in question

BEVERLY HILLS, California, March 31. (UPI): The judge who sentenced convicted cop-slayer Zsa Zsa Gabor to community service is seeking additional proof that she has completed her work at a homeless shelter, her prosecutor said yesterday.

Vera Davis, the executive director of the Lili-Capsheller in Venice, wrote a letter dated March 23 to municipal Judge Charles Rubin, stating that Gabor had completed her 120 hours of court-ordered service at the shelter.

But news media accounts have quoted unnamed shelter officials as saying that the sometimes actress and former Miss Hungary only served 50 hours at the shelter for homeless women and their children.

Gabor, 70, was quoted in the accounts as saying that she considers her service fully completed because she has spent "countless hours" organising a celebrity auction at her Bel-Air mansion to benefit the shelter.

"That Judge Rubin, who I find utterly disgusting, thinks he was punishing me with this, but he is not," she said. "I enjoy doing this. I have done more than he said I should — this auction has taken so many hours I can't count them."

Rubin, who also placed Gabor on probation, was not immediately available for comment.

Baldness, multiple motherhood risk to heart

SAN DIEGO, March 31. (AP): Men who are bald and women who bear five or more children develop blood cholesterol patterns that might raise their risk of heart disease, according to studies released yesterday.

In a study of 872 electronics factory workers in Italy, Dr Maurizio Trevisan found blood cholesterol and blood pressure levels rose with age among the 278 men with "male-pattern baldness." They defined that as a receding hairline and a bald spot on the crown of the head.

The small but significant

increases weren't found among the 321 men with full heads of hair or the 273 with receding hairlines but not a balding crown, said Trevisan, an epidemiologist at the state University of New York at Buffalo.

The study, released at an American Heart Association meeting, is "reason to lose one more hair," John Capps, founder of Baldheaded Men of America, said by phone from Morehead City, North Carolina. "Maybe we need to put our heads together on it and work out a

solution."

Trevisan and colleagues at the University of Naples plan research on whether elevated cholesterol and blood pressure levels actually make bald men more prone to heart attack and stroke.

"If these data are confirmed, they could be at higher risk," he said. "Right now, I have no idea... these elevated levels are not numbers that place these men in a very high-risk category for developing coronary heart disease. But this may change as the men age."

If elevated blood pressure and cholesterol also are found in other populations, Trevisan's study would be considered "a breakthrough observation," said Dr Elizabeth Barrett-Connor, chairwoman of Community and Family Medicine at the University of California.

Barrett-Connor co-authored the study of multiple pregnancies.

In her study of 1,275 women in Rancho Bernardo, near San Diego, she found that the women who had at least five pregnancies had a nearly 8 per cent drop in

levels of high-density lipoprotein, which is believed to protect against heart disease. There was no drop in the so-called "good" cholesterol among women with fewer children.

"Pregnancy may be another risk for heart disease, but it does not show up until five or more," said Barrett-Connor's colleague Donna Kritzer-Silverstein.

Like the bald men, the women with five or more children haven't been followed long enough to know if they actually will develop higher heart disease rates.

Massive steroid dose can reduce paralysis

WASHINGTON, March 31. (AP): Massive doses of a steroid drug given within hours of a spinal cord injury can significantly reduce paralysis for patients who previously had seemed beyond help, a government study reports.

The study, conducted at 10 centres around the United States, proved that the drug methylprednisolone was able to restore some feeling and movement in virtually all spinal cord injury patients, marking the first time that an effective treatment for such paralyzing injuries has been found, federal officials said yesterday.

"We now know that paralysis after spinal cord injury can be reduced by early treatment," said Michael B. Bracken, a professor at the Yale University School of Medicine who directed the study. "We were never certain about that before this study."

Clinical trials of the drug involved 487 spinal injury patients. The study compared the results of 162 treated with methylprednisolone with 154 treated with naloxone and 171 who received a placebo.

The results, said Bracken, show that methylprednisolone is "an effective treatment for reducing some of the neurological damage of a spinal injury."

Officials who monitored the study said its results could have an important effect on the lives of people who suffer acute spinal cord injury. Automobile accidents are the most common source of such injuries.

Most such injuries occur in men under the age of 30 and most such patients will spend their lives permanently disabled.

Methylprednisolone has been used for years to treat shock, to prevent swelling of the brain from injury or stroke and to stabilise membranes after injury. For the spinal injury study, researchers at the clinical centres gave patients 10 to 100 times the normal dosage within a 23-hour period.

The result, said Bracken, is that virtually all patients receiving the drug improved to some degree. The improvement was significantly greater than for patients with similar injuries who received other treatment.

Bracken said the study results have been evaluated by reviewers and will be published in May in the New England Journal of Medicine. He said the announcement was made in advance of publication in hopes that patients can benefit immediately.

The drug works only if it is given within eight hours after a spinal cord injury. About 95 per cent of all spinal cord patients are admitted to hospitals within eight hours, which means that most can benefit from this therapy, Bracken said.

Some patients in the study reported remarkable and unexpected recovery from serious spinal injuries.

In Phoenix, doctors credit the drug with saving Denise Shoblom, owner of several Arizona broadcast outlets, from possible paralysis.

Ms. Shoblom was taken to Kingdom regional medical centre in August 1989, following an auto accident. Doctors there injected methylprednisolone on the recommendation of doctors at Barrow Neurological Institute, one of the centres taking part in the federal study.

Just after the accident, Ms Shoblom had no feeling in her limbs, but she is now walking on her own and hopes to make a complete recovery.

"Because this medication was given to her within eight hours of her injury, she was able to recover much of her motor function," said Dr Volker Sonntag of Barrow. "If it hadn't been for this medication, she might be completely paralyzed today."

Much of the improvement seen among patients receiving the medication was much more subtle, Bracken said.



Cash with girlfriend

Tennis player Pat Cash (left) poses with his Brazilian-born American girlfriend Emily Bendil after announcing their engagement March 29 in Brisbane. No date for the wedding has been finalised as Cash attempts to revive his career after snapping an Achilles tendon in Tokyo last year. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fan breaks into Gless house

LOS ANGELES, March 31. (Reuters): An obsessed fan armed with a rifle broke into the home of actress Sharon Gless of the television series "Cagney and Lacey" yesterday threatened to commit suicide, police said.

Police spokesman said, but Gless was not at home, a police spokesman said.

The woman, Joani Penn, 30, had sent threatening letters to Gless, who played detective Chris Cagney in the show, and was under a court order to stay away from the actress, he said.

"We have control. It is just a matter of time before we get her out," the spokesman said. He said police went to the home of Gless, 45, when a silent alarm was triggered.

High Definition TV
Everyone is talking about

ATLANTA, Georgia, March 31. (AP): Dozens of screens offering crystal clear, larger-than-life images of rock concerts, boxing matches and surreal animation greeted broadcasters as the industry's annual convention began yesterday with one term on nearly everyone's lips: HDTV.

High Definition Television commanded centre stage at the advanced technology exhibit, which launched the National Association of Broadcasters' five-day convention.

Dozens of HDTV screens offering crystal clear images flashed alongside displays of high definition lenses, fiber-optic cameras and special effects gizmos aimed at changing the way TV is made and watched.

A major issue overhauling the exhibits is how the disparate technology can be standardized and marketed in a way that won't make the millions of television sets now in use obsolete. Convention organisers say HDTV probably won't be available to US homes until at least the middle of this decade.

"The issues are not so much what is technically possible," said Michael C. Rau, the NBA's senior vice-president for science and technology. "Rather, the issues are what kind of HDTV

actually can be achieved, what technologies and standards can be agreed upon, what technologies have consensus. Items on display at the convention indicate that a lot is technologically possible.

For example, the towering pioneer cube system that greeted visitors yesterday with an ultra-sharp broadcast of a rock concert made it clear that TV can look a lot better than what most people see in their homes.

Cube utilised a bank of 12 40-inch HDTV screens, each one showing a square portion of the larger picture and together presenting an image that was remarkably clear for a large-screen display.

Drawing a small crowd nearby was an exhibit by the Broadcasting Technology Association of Tokyo of "ghost reducer" equipment designed to eliminate the multiple images that have bothered viewers since television's infancy.

The problem occurs when television signals are reflected off mountains, tall buildings or other structures, BTA officials said. The new technology eliminates the problem by adding an extra signal at the transmitter, which is picked up by a device on the TV set and used to filter out the distorted signal.

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INTERNATIONAL

15m children die every year: WHO

GENEVA, March 31, (AP): Fifteen million under the age of five die every year, most of them needlessly, a report by the World Health Organization said yesterday.

The world health statistics annual said vaccine-preventable diseases, acute diarrhoea and respiratory infections were the main causes of death among the very young, especially in the Third World.

It said of the estimated 11 million deaths occurring annually in industrialized countries, heart disease was the biggest killer (2.4 million) followed by cancer (2.3 million) and strokes (1.5 million).

Some 800,000 people in the developed world died from "violent causes" last year, including 180,000 from suicide and 170,000 from road accidents, it said.

The report, which collates 1989 national statistics of most of the UN agency's 166 members, put the annual total of worldwide deaths at 50 million.

It said 3 million people continue to die each year from tuberculosis, the dreaded 19th century killer. An incredible 1.6 billion people carry the bacteria responsible, leading to some 10 million new cases of the disease each year, it said.

One in 20 teenagers and young adults contract sexually transmitted diseases each year, ranging from genital herpes to Aids, it said.

The report said there were an estimated 100,000 cases of Malaria world-wide, with nearly half the world's population living in regions where they were at risk from infected mosquitoes.

A further 600 million were in danger of schistosomiasis, a disease caused by a parasite in water snails, it said.

Despite progress in immunization over the last decade, three million children die

each year because they are not vaccinated against diseases such as polio, tetanus and measles, the report said.

It said two-thirds of the four million childhood deaths from dehydration and malnutrition caused by acute diarrhoea could be prevented by an inexpensive mixture of salt and sugar solution.

It said a further four million children under the age of five died from pneumonia and other respiratory illnesses. In Third World countries the risks were increased by low birthweights, poor nutrition and indoor air pollution.

ANC postpones first talks with Pretoria

Protest against the killings in Sebokeng

JOHANNESBURG, March 31, (Reuters): The African National Congress (ANC) said today it had postponed indefinitely talks with the South African government in protest against the police shooting of demonstrators in a black township.

"The talks have been suspended as a protest against the killings in Sebokeng," said ANC internal leader Ahmed Kathrada.

At least 11 people died after police opened fire on demonstrators in

ANC deputy President Nelson Mandela had earlier indicated the group had to respond to the shootings when he visited injured victims in Sebokeng hospital on Wednesday.

Hundreds of people suffered birdshot wounds when police fired on the large crowd protesting against high rents and poor municipal services.

The decision strikes a blow against South Africa's moves towards internal peace and an end to apartheid and acceptance by the international community.

No comment on the postponement was immediately available from the South African government.

In other developments Mandela's cancellation of peace talks aimed at ending South Africa's "Zulu wars" has dashed hopes of an early solution to the most serious black factional violence in years.

The fighting between rival black groups in Natal province has also jeopardised next month's first talks between Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and Pretoria.

South African President F.W. de Klerk, alarmed that his political reforms may be threatened by a rising tide of violence, said the conflict had reached unacceptable levels and his government might be forced to crack down.

"The future of this country will not be decided through the barrel of a gun," he told reporters in Cape Town.

"If certain elements on the left and the right continue their present course of violence and lawlessness the government will be obliged to use the full weight of its power to restore law and order in an unprejudiced way."

Mandela was to deliver a message of peace today in Bischo, a small town in his native Ciskei tribal homeland, one day after he cancelled a meeting planned for Monday with chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu Inkatha Movement.

But Mandela's impassioned pleas for peace, ignored by hardline ANC cadres, may not be enough to restore order in Natal,



Mandela (left) accompanied by his wife Winnie, consoles a weeping victim at Sebokeng hospital. The man was shot during running battles between South African riot police and anti-apartheid activists. (Reuters wirephoto)

scene of the worst upsurge of black violence in years.

Political leaders and hard-pressed villagers had pinned their hopes for a peaceful settlement of the Natal violence on Monday's meeting between Mandela and Buthelezi.

More than 36 people have been killed, scores of houses burnt and hundreds of people injured since Tuesday night in the factional strife between the conservative Inkatha Movement and supporters of the United Democratic Front (UDF), an alliance of groups supporting the ANC.

An ANC statement said the organisation's Natal leadership had advised Mandela that Monday's joint rally with Buthelezi would not be helpful.

"Mandela said he had been informed that a joint rally will not be appropriate at this time because the people are still very angry and there could be a blood-bath on that day," Buthelezi told state television.

Residents of the six battle-weary townships surrounding the Natal's provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg had said they believed the rally could help to end the fighting.

Sebokeng, south of Johannesburg, on Monday.

The talks, which were to have been on April 11, would have been the first step towards negotiations between the white minority government and the black nationalist movement, legalised last month after 30 years.

Kathrada said the suspension was indefinite.

"An official statement will be issued by the ANC in Lusaka," he told Reuters.



SA unbans Mandela's book, anti-apartheid film

JOHANNESBURG, March 31, (AP): The government censorship board yesterday lifted the ban on the autobiography of black leader Nelson Mandela and the anti-apartheid movie, "A Dry White Season."

The publication appeals board said Mandela's book, "The Struggle is My Life," now is "part of the accepted political rhetoric" in South Africa.

The board had banned the book three years ago.

Mandela was released Feb 11 after 27 years in prison for his role in launching the bombing and sabotage campaign of the African National Congress. He continues to support the ANC's armed struggle, which has been largely dormant in the past year.

As far as the principle of armed violence is concerned, (Mandela's) standpoint is so well known that it is unlikely it will change the outlook of the reader toward political violence," the appeals board said in its judgment.

Other books about Mandela and the ANC have been available in South Africa for several years.

The board also unbanned "A Dry White Season," a US-made film based on the anti-apartheid novel by South African author Andre Brink.

The film, featuring Donald Sutherland and Marlon Brando, was screened at a South African film festival last year but was banned from general circulation.

The film concerns a series of injustices suffered by a black family at the hands of white authorities. A white teacher, played by Sutherland, becomes involved and unsuccessfully seeks redress through the courts.

Another anti-apartheid film, "Cry Freedom," is scheduled to re-open in South Africa on April 27.

The board approved the film in July 1988, but police had confiscated it from theatres the day it opened, saying it posed a threat to public safety.



Rival blacks battle: Residents of Ashdown black township watch white black youths stage an attack on a stronghold of another black political movement. (Reuters wirephoto)

All-time high in 1989

Murders in New York

NEW YORK, March 31, (Reuters): Murders in New York City hit an all-time high in 1989, with 1990 set to eclipse that mark if current trends continue.

Police commissioner Lee Brown said on Friday that 1,905 people were slain in the city last year, a half a percentage point increase from 1988, which also set a record. Killings for the two months of this year are up 20 per cent over the same period in 1989.

Officials said more than two-thirds of the murders in upper Manhattan in 1989 involved drug gangs in

shootouts.

Robberies also increased in 1989, rising almost eight per cent to 93,337 for the highest street crime rate in the nation. Burglary and thefts fell, however, except for car theft which increased 11.6 per cent.

Brown called the murder rate a "public health problem" and said federal health authorities should treat it as an epidemic.

Overall, the crime rate in the biggest US city fell by almost one per cent, with the biggest drop in larceny, which fell by 6.7 per cent.

SAUN Diego, March 31, (Reuters): US customs agent Daniel Supnick turned himself into super-salesman Daniel Saunders to catch a gang of alleged nuclear arms smugglers by wooing them with high tech sales talk while tapping them with high tech listening devices.

Charges against the suspects were released on Thursday.

Supnick was called in on the case when an Iraqi citizen who owned two British companies contacted a San Diego firm asking it to supply components needed to detonate nuclear bombs, US officials said.

Kenneth Ingleby, the special agent in

charge of US customs in San Diego, said Supnick spent the next 18 months in the guise of export executive Daniel Saunders, an aggressive type who would stop at nothing to make a sale.

Because of Supnick's efforts, which began in September 1988, the Iraqi, Ali Ashour Daghir, and his assistant, French citizen Jeanine Speckman, married to an Englishman and living in London, were caught by British police as they tried to send what they thought were nuclear

detonators from London's Heathrow airport to Baghdad.

The detonators were "dummies" switched for the real merchandise once it had reached Britain from the United States.

Ingleby said Supnick was chosen for the job as undercover agent in the "sting" operation because of his knowledge of high technology and military weaponry.

During the operation he visited London and Baghdad frequently, posing as the pushy, stop-at-nothing manager for finance and export of CSI Technologies Inc., the San Diego manufacturer of the nuclear capacitors which had been approached by Daghir.

In his meetings with Daghir, Speckman and three other Iraqis, Supnick wore soph-

Gonzalez charged with murders

NEW YORK, March 31, (Reuters): Cuban immigrant Julio Gonzalez, the jilted lover accused of setting the devastating fire at a Bronx club, was charged yesterday with 174 counts of murder—the highest mass murder indictment in US history.

In another New York court, relatives of three of the fire's victims filed multi-million dollar lawsuits against the city and the owner and the lessee of the building.

Bronx prosecutor Robert Johnson said Gonzalez showed "a depraved indifference to human life."

The grand jury also charged Gonzalez with arson and the attempted murder of his former girlfriend, Lydia Feliciano—a ticket taker at the social club and one of only five people who escaped the blaze alive early Sunday.

Eighty-seven people died in the fire, the highest mass murder in US history. Gonzalez was charged with two counts of murder for each of the 87 victims.

Police said the 36-year-old Cuban set the fire at the illegal Happy Land Club with a dollar's worth of petrol after Feliciano spurned him.

Happy Land was a fire hazard, ordered shut by city officials 16 months ago. The Puerto Rican families who filed for damages yesterday say the city failed either to close the club or enforce its own order to vacate.

The suits claim the building's owner and lessors also knew about the safety violations but failed to close the club. Among those defendants is Jay Weiss, husband of actress Kathleen Turner, who leased the building.

Gonzalez came to the United States in the 1980 Mariel boatlift. He lost his job as a six months ago and Feliciano, threw him out of their flat three months later.



Lydia Feliciano, (second right) former girlfriend of Julio Gonzalez, who police say confessed to starting the fire that killed 87 people at the Happy Land social club in the Bronx. (Rauter wirephoto)

Baker not for low US profile

WASHINGTON, March 31, (Reuters): Secretary of State James Baker vowed yesterday to resist isolationist pressures for the United States to 'lower its international profile because of the easing of East-West tensions.'

Referring to the renewal of the age-old debate within the United States over what its international role should be, Baker said in a speech in Texas that the world still needed American leadership. The text of his speech was made available to reporters in Washington.

"Now that the adversaries of democracy are weaker, some say we should retire, mission accomplished, to tend our problems at home," Baker said.

"I am not among them. In the new world struggling to be born,

there is no substitute for American leadership."

Senior officials said isolationist sentiment was becoming a serious concern for the administration of President George Bush, which has scored most of its successes in foreign rather than domestic policy.

"The speech is a part of an effort which I think we will be making more of in the future to try and effect a debate at home," said one senior State Department official.

"The notion is that with all the changes internationally, we're also facing a changed debate at home... whether it be neo-isolationism or a question of how the United States leadership changes," he said.

Strict abortion law vetoed: The governor of Idaho vetoed a bill on Friday that would have made the state the most restrictive on abortion laws in the United States.

Idaho governor Cecil Andrus said he considered the measure too restrictive.

"It's not good legislation. I cannot in good conscience affix my signature to its passage," he told a news conference. (Reuters)

Dress code for drivers: The city of Los Angeles, seeking to smarten up the grubby image of its taxicab drivers, decreed a dress code on Friday that said skirts should be at least knee length—and they should be worn only by females.

A spokesman for the city commissioners said he did not know how many male cabbies had been driving around in skirts, but doubted that the habit was widespread. (Reuters)

US returns \$2 million to Panama: The United States has returned to Panama just over \$2 million, that was confiscated by American troops during the invasion that overthrew dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega, an official said Friday.

Marcos Ostrander, chief of US international and operational law, said in a letter accompanying the funds that US authorities did not know to whom belonged. It was returned to Panamanian officials "due to the form and circumstances in which it was confiscated," Elquia Santos, an attorney general's office spokeswoman said. (AP)

Rodriguez freed by rebels: Norberto Rodriguez, brother-in-law of Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Perez, was released Friday by suspected rebels after eight months in captivity, police said.

Rodriguez was freed near Tibu, a rural community on the border with Venezuela. Red Cross workers took him to this city, where he was to undergo a medical examination, police said.

Rodriguez was expected to travel to Caracas, capital of Venezuela, to be reunited with his family, said a family spokesman in Cucuta, who declined identification. (AP)

Ignore Reagan's testimony: prosecutor

WASHINGTON, March 31, (AP): The prosecutor at John Poindexter's trial asked jurors in final arguments yesterday to ignore "biased" testimony from former President Ronald Reagan and convict Reagan's National Security Adviser of Iran-Contra cover-up charges.

But Poindexter's attorney said the defendant had merely gotten caught in a political battle between Congress and the White House and had done his best to tell as much as he could rather than conspiring to hide the affair.

Poindexter had done his job for Reagan, "the driving force behind his actions," said defence lawyer Richard Beckler.

Prosecutor Dan K. Webb said in his summation that there was "overwhelming evidence" that Poindexter lied to Congress and destroyed documents to cover up the sale of arms to Iran and White House help to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels at a time that formal aid was banned.

The Iran-Contra affair was the biggest government scandal to hit the US capital in the 1980s. Poindexter is the highest ranking official from the Reagan administration to go on trial in the case.

Webb ridiculed the defence's decision to call Reagan as its "star witness," calling it an attempt to persuade jurors

to ignore the facts.

Reagan "didn't have the slightest clue" whether Poindexter participated in the crimes charged in the indictment, Webb said.

The defence hoped that "just because the president testified you ought to acquit John Poindexter," Webb said. "That defence is an insult to your intelligence."

The eight hours of Reagan's videotaped testimony, taken in February in Los Angeles, was played for the jury last week by the defence, which rested its case Wednesday without calling Poindexter to the stand.

Beckler told jurors yesterday that Poindexter, a retired Navy rear admiral, wasn't part of "some grimy little conspiracy that the prosecution would have you believe."

"He is a victim of a concerted action by Congress, working hand-in-hand with the independent business office to try to do something with this political battle between Congress and the White House," Beckler said.

Prosecutor Webb attacked Reagan's testimony, saying "Ronald Reagan didn't seem to remember anything in this case" and demonstrated bias at one point by turning and winking at Poindexter.

His meetings in London with the conspirators were also videotaped by agents from the US Central Intelligence Agency and Britain's Scotland Yard.

An indictment against Daghir and Speckman on five counts was unsealed in San Diego on Thursday accusing them of conspiring to illegally export nuclear weaponry to Iraq, exporting that weaponry from the United States, and money laundering.

Also charged in the indictment were three Iraqi employees of the Al Qasas state establishment.

Customs agent turned super salesman to nab nuclear smugglers

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West must yield to Iran on hostages: Hezbollah

BEIRUT, March 31, (Agencies): The leader of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group said yesterday Western states should make concessions to Tehran and its Lebanese allies to secure the release of 17 Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Sheikh Saeed Toufaily, in an interview, said the basis of the hostage issue is the demands of the captors. The issue should be discussed at that level in order to be solved from its roots.

Eight Americans and three Britons are among those believed held in Lebanon. Toufaily, speaking at his heavily-guarded house in Beirut's Syrian-policed

southern suburbs, said: "Iran, with its spiritual and cultural presence in Lebanon, can use its influence to solve the problem of some hostages."

But he added: "Why should Iran do a favour to America or Europe or solve a problem for this state or that while the other states are not willing to solve any of Iran's problems?"

"He who wants something from Iran should pay the price."

Toufaily's remarks followed comments by other pro-Iranian leaders and statements by hostage-takers pouring cold water on hopes that the hostages will

be freed soon.

An Iranian newspaper sparked optimism about the hostages last month by calling for their unconditional release, saying the West was using the issue to tarnish the image of Muslims.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani said on March 7 that the issue was moving towards a solution. An Iranian Foreign Ministry official said last week that the captives could be freed by January.

Hezbollah is widely thought to be an umbrella organisation that includes kidnapping groups, though it denies

involvement in the abductions.

"The hostages are held by security groups that have nothing to do with Hezbollah or its leadership," Toufaily said. "We only hope this issue ends peacefully."

Toufaily, former commander of Hezbollah's military arm, the Islamic Resistance, said the hostage issue was not linked to the fate of three Israeli soldiers captured by the group.

"The issue of the Israeli captives has nothing to do with the hostage issue... there are no talks whatsoever with Israel about its captives," he said.

Israel last year kidnapped Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid, a leading Hezbollah cleric, and offered to swap him and other Shiite Muslim prisoners for the hostages and the Israeli soldiers.

Islamic Amal Movement leader Hussein Musawi urged US to give in to the Lebanese hostage-taker's condition for the release of the hostages. He made the plea following reports that he held clandestine talks earlier this week with the brother of Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani somewhere in Syrian-policed eastern Lebanon.

World Jewry assured

Hungary will extend all help

NEW YORK, March 31, (Reuters): Hungary's prime minister assured world Jewry yesterday that his country has eliminated all obstacles for its state airline to carry Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union as he attempted to stop a controversy that raised charges of Hungarian anti-Semitism.

In a letter to the head of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) here, Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth said that among the obstacles was the general manager of the state airline, Malev, who has been dismissed because he abolished charter flights from Budapest to Tel Aviv and forbade emigrants to take regular flights.

Malev Director-General Lajos Jahoda made his decision after a threat from the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine group. But the ban drew fire from Israeli and US politicians, and from the Hungarian government itself, which complained that it was "an encouragement to international terrorism."

With the dismissal of Jahoda, Malev says it is willing to resume carrying emigrants on its regular flights, although it will not resume special charter ones. However, El Al, the Israeli carrier, is now sending in charters to Budapest to make up the slack and Poland has laid on extra flights to carry Soviet emigrants.

In his letter to WJC President Edgar Bronfman, Nemeth said: "I understand your worries caused by the Malev decision... May I assure you that this decision is contradictory to government intentions and policy."

"This is proven by the fact that the minister has dismissed the general manager of Malev and has eliminated all obstacles from Malev to carry the Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union."

Nemeth added: "I sincerely hope that this decision will free you of your worry and will prove

that my government has a clear and predictable policy in this issue."

Malev said on Thursday that despite the lifting of the ban it did not want to remain the main carrier of Soviet Jews to Israel and did not want Budapest to remain their main stopover.

The Islamic Jihad threatened action against airlines involved in flying Soviet Jews to Israel, as it feared many would be settled on Arab territories occupied by Israel.

Malev officials estimated that between 1,000 and 3,000 Soviet Jews already held Malev tickets to Tel Aviv.

There are no direct flights between Israel and the Soviet Union, which do not have diplomatic relations, and Budapest is the major transit point for the emigrants.

In Warsaw the Polish government said yesterday it would offer "humanitarian aid" to Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union to Israel via Poland but stressed that Palestinians have a right to their own state.

Government spokeswoman Malgorzata Niezabitowska reiterated the promise made by Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki to the American Jewish Congress during his eight-day visit to the United States, that Poland would not hesitate to airlift the Jews.

"In the middle ages and later during the renaissance, Poland helped Jews persecuted in other European countries," Niezabitowska said. "Poland will not decline humanitarian aid to Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union."

The Solidarity newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza said Poles working in the Arab countries might become a target of terrorists in retaliation for the decision.

"The Polish Foreign Ministry fears terrorist attacks on ten thousand Poles employed in Arab countries and is working on methods of protecting them," the newspaper said yesterday.

US, Israel gain in General Assembly

Name calling eliminated

UNITED NATIONS, March 31, (Agencies): The United States said yesterday it has gained wider acceptance in the UN General Assembly, which has virtually eliminated name calling aimed at Washington.

US Ambassador Thomas Pickering, in his annual report to Congress on UN voting practices, also said support for US positions has grown in the 159-nation assembly. On a key issue — continued Israeli participation in the world body — support continues to grow for the US position, he said.

The usually Third World-dominated assembly, in its 44th year of existence, has been known for virulent attacks against Israel, to unseat the Jewish state, the closest US ally in the United Nations.

In his report, Pickering described the current 44th session of the assembly as one of the "most constructive in recent history."

"Name-calling aimed at the United States was virtually eliminated from UN resolutions and documents," Pickering said in his report, which was issued yesterday at UN headquarters.

He said member states adopted more consensus resolutions — from 58 per cent of resolutions in 1984 to 70 per cent in 1989 — including on difficult issues like the situation in Afghanistan, Cambodia, South Africa's apartheid policy and a moratorium on the use of drift nets.

Pickering said consensus votes, in which member states adopted resolutions without a vote, have led to an "increased cohesion" in the work of the

assembly and deflected name-calling incidences.

He said he sensed more co-operation among member states, particularly in East-West relations as East European countries increasingly switched to Western-style democracies.

Consensus required harder bargaining, and the United States is "comfortable" with the present trend, Pickering said.

The 232-page report, approved by Secretary of State James Baker, is an evaluation of voting practices in the General Assembly and the Security Council on issues of special importance to the United States. It is issued annually after the General Assembly finishes most of its work from September to December each year. Hundreds of resolutions are usually adopted in each session.

This year's report showed an increasing number of countries opposed a challenge by Arab countries to unseat Israel in the General Assembly. Pickering listed that opposition as one of most significant achievements by the United States.

His comments about increasing support for Israel were echoed yesterday in Congress, where assistant Secretary of State John Bolton told a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee the United States hopes a 15-year-old UN resolution equating Zionism with racism can be repealed.

Bolton told the subcommittee the Soviets, who led the 1975 General Assembly vote on the anti-Zionism resolution, have said they no longer support the

measure. He said State Department officials have met with the Soviets four times to discuss repealing the resolution and the dialogue will continue.

Bolton noted that the Soviet Union had led the drive for the resolution in 1975 but said the State Department had hoped the new Soviet co-operation would lead to its repeal.

But he said talks in Washington and Moscow had failed to win agreement on a concerted approach towards repeal. Bolton added that Moscow had had questions that encouraged the United States to continue to pursue the matter.

Told that the talks had been conducted at the Soviet deputy foreign minister level, New York Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a former UN ambassador, said higher officials should be involved and complained of "lack of energy" in the State Department on the issue.

Bolton replied: "The Bush administration is most serious about having this resolution repealed."

Despite the signs of improvement, Pickering said the General Assembly continued to adopt "one-sided" resolutions.

The US ambassador's report, which tallied votes by more than 150 countries on dozens of issues, said Israel led all countries in voting with the United States — voting with Washington 87.5 per cent of the time.

After Israel, the countries that most frequently voted with the United States were Britain, West Germany, France and the Netherlands.



Land Day rally

Above: Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat gestures during a Land Day rally in Tunis yesterday. Below: Two hooded Palestinians throw rocks at Israeli soldiers during a clash in the West Bank town of Tekoa. The Land Day is the anniversary of the 1976 killing by Israeli police of six Arabs in protests over land rights. (Reuters wire-photo)

West Bank town of Tekoa. The Land Day is the anniversary of the 1976 killing by Israeli police of six Arabs in protests over land rights. (Reuters wire-photo)



MIDEAST BRIEFS

Turkish kids, father killed: Separatist Kurdish rebels killed a man and his two children, aged five and one, in a village in southeast Turkey on Friday, local sources said.

They said the rebels threw a bomb down the chimney of Abdullah Kara's mud-brick house in the village of Hilal near Hakkari. Three villagers were wounded the same day by a mine planted outside the village, the sources said. (Reuters)

Protect Maghreb call: Five North African countries asked Western Europe on Friday to give North African immigrants better protection and punish those responsible for a recent spate of racist attacks on them.

A statement by Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers said: "The ministers are deeply disturbed about this and ask the European countries where these attacks have been perpetrated to take the necessary measures to protect the rights, security and dignity of the North African community." (Reuters)

Probe on Unrwa killing: The recent killing of a Palestinian UN refugee official by masked assailants in the Israel-occupied West Bank appeared to be unrelated to his official duties and a fuller investigation is being carried out, a UN spokesman said on Friday.

"On the night of March 27-28, an area staff member of Unrwa (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees), the camp services officer of Nur Shams Camp in the West Bank, Mr Yasser Qazmouz, was attacked by masked assailants and subsequently died," the UN spokesman said. (Reuters)

Maxwell up stake in Modiri: British publisher Robert Maxwell has increased his stake in Modiri, publishers of the mass-circulation Israeli daily Maariv, from 33 to 45 per cent, it was announced Friday.

Pergamon Media Trust, a British company chaired by Maxwell, said Israeli newspaper executive Dov Judkowski would represent Pergamon on the board of Modiri publishing company. (AP)

112 SPLA rebels killed: Sudan said 112 rebels had been killed in clashes with government forces in southern Sudan.

An army statement broadcast on state-run Radio Ondurman on Saturday said the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) guerrillas were killed near Wau, the capital of the Bahr Al Ghazal region. It did not say when the fighting took place. (Reuters)

N. Yemen to host talks: North Yemen will host peace talks between independence-seeking Eritrean rebels and the Ethiopian government in Sanaa on Sunday.

Ethiopia has agreed to hold preliminary talks with the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), a rebel group fighting for independence in the northern province of Eritrea. (Reuters)

Oak meets with Assad: North Korean Vice-President Li Kong Oak met last night with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during which he handed him a message from North Korean President Kim Il Sung.

No information was disclosed about the contents of the message but it was officially announced that Oak had extended an official invitation from President Sun to President Al Assad to visit North Korea. (Kuna)

Cult suicide: 4 bodies found: Police said they found the gunshot bodies of three women and a boy in an apartment Saturday in Limassol, Cyprus. They called it an apparent collective suicide prompted by the doctrine of a religious cult.

A police official declined to disclose the names of the four, who were estimated to have died 10 days ago, but said they were Cypriot-Australians who returned to the island in 1988. (AP)

Yugoslavia, Egypt win: Yugoslavia and Egypt won the gold "Agrinn" awards Friday in competitions for radio and television programmes produced in non-aligned countries, the Cyprus News Agency reported. (AP)

France reinforces its troops in Chad

PARIS, March 31, (Agencies): France ordered a "limited reinforcement" of its troops in Chad yesterday following an outbreak of fierce fighting along the Chad-Libya border between Chadian government forces and rebels backed by Libya, the Defence Ministry said.

Rebel troops loyal to dissident Idriss Deby reportedly have captured the towns of Tine and Baha on Chad's eastern border. The fighting broke out Sunday between the Libyan-backed "Islamic Legion" led by Deby and troops loyal to Chadian President Hissene Habre.

Regular Chadian army units are believed to have regrouped at Iriba, some 36 miles (60 km) to the west of the Sudanese border, Defence Ministry sources said.

The French statement did not say how many more men it was sending to the West African nation but indicated it considered the flare-up endangered existing French forces there.

"Clashes having taken place in the east of Chad, a limited reinforcement of the Epervier force has been decided," said the Defence Ministry.

The reinforcement was decided "in agreement with the Chadian authorities," said the French statement, "in order to guarantee the security of French troops present in that region," said the statement.

Libya has denied any involvement in the fighting. Forces loyal to Hissene Habre carried out a series of raids into Sudanese territory against the rebels in October and November.

France set more than 2,000 soldiers to its former colony in 1986 to help to fight off a Libyan-backed invasion.

The Epervier (sparrowhawk) French force was reduced to 1,300 men last September after Chad and Libya signed an agreement aimed at settling their 15-year dispute over the Aouzou Strip.

But Chad has repeatedly accused Libya of aggressive acts and said on Monday that guerrillas of the "Libyan Islamic Legion" had attacked two government garrisons near its eastern border with Sudan. Libya has denied involvement.

Rebels in southern Sudan said yesterday they had dropped their opposition to relief flights and they could resume immediately.

Lam Akol, number three in the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), made the announcement after talks in Addis Ababa with the UN special representative for Sudan, Michael Priestley.

Priestley is director of Lifeline Sudan, a UN-co-ordinated relief operation which aims to assist 4.5 million people affected by the Sudanese civil war this year on both sides of the lines.

"We believe that the second leg operation Lifeline Sudan is overdue by four months. Aircraft shuttling emergency food to affected people in the south can fly without any fear whatsoever from the rebel side," Akol told Reuters.

Israelis using French bullets

PARIS, March 31, (Kuna): It is French-made plastic bullets that Israeli troops have been using for the last two years to fire at Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands, weekly magazine "Le Nouvel Observateur", reported yesterday.

The weekly said that it was a senior Israeli military official, posted at Gaza, who told its reporter that these plastic but nevertheless very harmful bullets were manufactured in France.

Medical doctors and surgeons working in the West Bank and Gaza strip believe these anti-riot ammunition to be responsible for the incredibly high number of bullet wounds, the magazine added.

Quoting Jürgen Rosenthal, the Danish head of the Aklia Anglican Church Hospital at Gaza, the weekly said that plastic account only for 10 per cent in the composition of the bullets, which contain 70 per cent of zinc and 20 per cent of glass.

They have to be handled with care, and even though they have to be fired only from a distance of at least 70 metres and can be used in only a one shot rifle and not a machine-gun type of arm, these plastic bullets are as deadly a weapon as a metal bullet, and furthermore they are not accurate beyond a distance of 120 metres.

But in refugee camps that 70-metre distance cannot be respected and since the plastic bullets are much lighter than real bullets, they get carried away by the wind and one never knows which targets they will hit, the soldier added.

"Le Nouvel Observateur" quoted Yitzhak Rabin, who was Israel's defence minister in October 1988, as admitting at that time that there were more wounded Palestinians because of these plastic bullets, and adding "but that was exactly what we were aiming at."

UN chief stepping up efforts to break impasse in Western Sahara conflict

NEW YORK, March 31, (AP): In a diplomatic foray into North Africa this week, the United Nations secretary-general stepped up his efforts to break the impasse in the Western Sahara conflict.

Now that Namibia has gained its independence, the UN is turning its attention to resolving the 15-year-long dispute over the strategic desert region.

Javier Perez de Cuellar, whose trip to the region last June failed to produce a breakthrough, said that "this time I found a more propitious atmosphere."

He added that, "in a sense, we have made a certain progress. But to say that we have overcome all the difficulties, that would be going a little too far."

Perez de Cuellar met Morocco's King

Hassan II at a royal palace in Rabat on March 25. The UN chief then travelled to refugee camps in desolate southwest Algeria on March 26 for consultations with the Polisario Front — Saharans who have been fighting against Morocco for independence in the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara.

The Polisario leader, Mohamed Abdelaziz, told reporters in the refugee camps in Tindouf that the secretary-general's trip had been "very important and cannot fail to have very positive repercussions on the evolution of events."

Bechir Mustapha Sayed, the Polisario's second-in-command, said later that Perez de Cuellar had "raised the possibility of a peace process in the coming months."

Moroccan and Polisario sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say they believe it is now possible to organise a referendum to settle the status of the disputed territory by the end of this year.

Both sides indicate that the balloting could begin within six months after reaching agreement on an official starting date.

The Polisario say that Moroccan troops, settlers, and administration must go, if the election is to be free and fair.

The Moroccans argue that the UN alone would not be able to guarantee peace and security in the territory.

No details of the UN plan have been released, but diplomats who have seen it say it requires a "substantial" reduction in

Moroccan forces, without specifying numbers.

A truce is the next step. The Polisario say that it must be arranged directly with the Moroccans. The Moroccans say the secretary-general must call it.

Both sides do agree that only those listed in a 1974 Spanish census of the Western Sahara are eligible to vote. A UN technical team has now put those 74,000 names into a computer, and held consultations with Spanish experts who were actually involved in taking the original census.

Moroccan officials have said that they agree with the UN position that any non-Saharawis in the territory — "Moroccan settlers," as the Polisario call them — would not vote.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Facilitate loans to farmers, says Mubarak

Call for higher co-operation with APU

HEAD of the Abdull Agricultural Society, Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al Naser Al Sabah expressed hope that the Industrial Bank of Kuwait will facilitate agricultural loans to farmers and further called on the bank to provide more time to farmers who have obtained loans to repay their dues.

Sheikh Mubarak stated that the government introduced agricultural services and other requirements to encourage this

sector — particularly in the field of wheat farming and added that enhanced bank facilities will encourage more farmers to develop this agricultural sector.

He expressed hope that the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries will increase wheat harvests for the current season. He pointed out that the harvests of the last season were not adequate to cover the need of all farmers.

He called upon farmers to exert more

efforts during the Holy Month of Ramadan and also for higher co-operation with the Agricultural Products Union (APU) in the field of marketing their products.

He added that all farmers are keen to see increased efforts exerted in marketing their products among all Kuwaiti areas. He called for opening all market exits in front of national agricultural products

inside consumer co-operative societies and also called for the establishment of new sites for marketing particularly at highly populated areas in Kuwait.

He advised farmers to lay more stress on the agriculture of palm trees at all farms and public areas and around houses. The official pointed out that the application of new and modern methods has assisted farmers in overcoming the harsh weather conditions and scarcity of irrigation water.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jaafar transferred

The Minister of Finance, Jassem Al Khorafi, has transferred Fuad Jaafar from his previous post as director general of Kuwait Investment Office in London to the Public Investment Authority in Kuwait. The appointment is to be effective as of the middle of this month.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the office in London, Sheikh Fahad Mohammed Al Sabah has been asked to perform the missions of the director general till the appointment of a new official.

Govt investments

A MEETING was held at the Public Authority for Investment presided over by the authority's director general Dr. Fahd Al Rashid and attended by board chairman of the government investment companies.

Well-informed sources were quoted as saying that the meeting discussed the strategy under which the relations between the investment companies and government is defined, and efforts to interlink the Kuwait foreign investments with the activities of the local investment companies in their different spheres of specialities and expertise. The move is intended to step up their productivity to the maximum level possible based on the principle of honest competition.

The sources also said that the meeting was held within the framework of recommendations adopted by the Joint Economic Committee report, adding that one of these stresses the need to tie Kuwaiti foreign investments to local activities.

The meeting concluded that the companies should submit their comments on the best way to carry out this recommendation within three months from the date of the meeting.

Malaria meeting

THE Arab Gulf Malaria Committee affiliated to The Arab Gulf Health Ministers Council will hold its meeting in Doha, Qatar on April 14th, according to an official source at Qatari Ministry of Public Health.

In an interview with Qatari News Agency (QNA) the official said that the two-day meeting will debate the epidemic situation of malaria in the region in general and the member states in particular in addition to setting up the necessary programmes for fighting the disease.

He added that the meeting will debate the possibility of benefiting from preliminary health care in the field of fighting malaria and the position of the Volunteer Fund for financing relevant programmes in addition to co-ordination among local committees in the member states.



Medals awarded

DIRECTOR of the Installations Security and Special Forces at the Interior Ministry, Brig. Yousef Al Mishari (above left) gave away medals of duty presented by HH the Amir to a number of officers in the department. Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passports, Shaikh Mohammad Khalid Al Sabah (below) gave away medals presented by HH the Amir to a number of officers in the department.



Paci may number all houses

THE Public Authority for Civil Information (Paci) is about to complete a number of different projects during the next few months to develop its various services and keep abreast of all changes and developments.

A local daily said that one of the Paci projects involves the numbering of all houses, buildings and flats in the state of Kuwait, whereby these numbers will be used by citizens and residents to have their transactions processed by the Paci personnel.

The paper added that the next few months will also witness the inauguration of the new civil ID-cards distribution centre, in Sharq to replace the existing centres in Hawally and Farwaniya. The

distribution process at the new premises will be highly facilitated and sped up through the use of computers.

Travel ban

Paci will also implement a project with the co-operation of the Civil Aviation directorate-general, and border authorities whereby the civil number of each individual will be used instead of their names to avoid confusion of people with the same names who have been banned from travel.

The paper said that under this project special computer terminals linked to the Paci network will be supplied to the authorities at exits of the country to provide them with access into the personal civil number of the person in question, and sort out the problems caused by the confusion of similar names.

No Aids here, says Roshoud

THERE are no Aids cases within the governorates, Director of Jahra Health Area, Dr. Rashid Al Roshoud said and added that this disease appears among expatriate manpower and all new expatriates go through comprehensive medical check-ups to ensure that they are free of the disease.

The official indicated that shortly a new centre will be established for the treatment of body dehydration to combat diarrhoea cases specifically related to the children of Jahra. He pointed out that the main reason is unclean milk bottles and not properly washing other consumables.

The officials said that presently, Jahra Health Area has a total of 350,000 files for medical patients, and announced the start of implementing the health care system in Jahra.

He added that the elderly are provided with comprehensive health care as they mostly suffer from blood pressure and heart disease.

He said that medical errors do occur, but these are very infrequent and when they do occur, a thorough investigation is undertaken to determine the facts and if negligence is proven, the guilty are punished.

Roshoud said that several expansion projects are currently being carried out at the hospitals and health centres and welcome the idea of opening private clinics at hospitals, particularly for consulting physicians at symbolic rents. He said that having consultant physicians at hospitals is in the interest of patients and obviates the need for doctors to open private clinics outside hospital areas.

He indicated that a computer system will be utilised at Jahra Hospital to speed up work measures. In an innovative move, the employees will receive their salary at the Jahra Health Area instead of going to the ministry building as of next month, the official said and added that Jahra will be the first area in Kuwait to implement this payroll system.

A special budget has been designed for expanding the Jahra Hospital during the coming five-year-plan which has been approved by the Ministry of Public Health and the ministers council and the plan will be executed within a short time.

Roshoud said that two doctors will be available at the hospital casualty section, instead of one as at present to render services to the increasing number of patients.

The official said that the decade of the nineties will witness great developments in the government utilities and buildings including the Kuwaiti individual. Particularly, many hospital sections will witness expansions soon and in this connection the maternity section will receive 60 additional beds to cater to the increasing number of maternity cases in the governorates.

Roshoud said that another plan was designed to expand the paediatrics section which is witnessing heavy demand on services.

Charity a priority during Ramadan

Project to provide Iftar meals

ACTING director of Kuwait Zakat House Abdul Qader Dahi Al Ojail has stressed the important role played by the house through the implementation of its different Islamic welfare projects.

He told a local daily that the house accorded top priority to charity projects at home, pointing out that collected alms (Zakat) were spent through right channels distributed among needy families, used in funding different charity and welfare projects in Kuwait.

He said that the house paid regular monthly aid in the total amount of KD 600,000 to more than 900 families, and 156 others benefited from the interest-free loans extended by the house.

A total of KD 80,000 were also paid to 262 families, which included aid to prisoners' families in the amount of KD 50,000, stressing that the house paid considerable attention to needy but unassuming families, the number of which reached 400.

The house has had great success in qualifying and training able members of needy families in vocational skills to turn them productive and able to support their families. Five such training courses were held during 1989 in which 130 housewives participated.

He added that the house financially supported private Zakat-collecting committees to enable them to better perform their duties, and that a total of KD 180,000 were paid to 15 such committees in 1989, and KD 123,000 were paid to local social welfare societies.

The house received moral donations from charity-givers and donors, individuals and companies for distribution to the needy, and a total of 12,216 families with 85,000 members benefited from these donations in 1989.

Breakfast meals

The house also collected Fitr Zakat last year which was distributed among 3331 families with 23,225 members, and the material distributed included rice, meat and powder milk.

The house also funded the provision of Iftar meals to fasting Muslims during the month of Ramadan in 49 different mosques and the total number of meals offered was 135,600 for an average daily number of beneficiaries of 4520 in the total value of KD 113,000.

Additionally, the house also sponsored the implementation of the sacrificial meat project inside Kuwait whereby a total of 648 sacrifices were distributed to 1174 families. The house also co-sponsored the 'Clothing of Orphans' project with the Ministry of Awwal and Islamic Affairs, from which the total beneficiaries reached 1667.

Ojail added that 24 people were provided the opportunity to perform haj at the expense of the house due to their poor financial status, while the house also provided 12 water coolers in different places in Kuwait.

He highlighted the great success achieved on the Orphan-Sponsoring project under which 16661 orphans were sheltered by a total of 12320 sponsors up to the end of 1989, as the value of donations received for this purpose by the house totalled KD 730,000.

The house had since its establishment sponsored the execution of 1055 projects abroad of which 358 were contracted in 1989, and the total cost of projects implemented during 1989 reached KD 1,064,000, majority of which came from donations and

these projects included the construction of schools, orphanages, production centres, mosques, Islamic centres, shelters, water wells and others.

The house also sponsored the implementation of the sacrificial meat project in 13 countries of the world where a total of 10975 meat sacrifices were distributed among more than 300,000 people.

Ojail said that 275,000 breakfast meals were offered to Muslims in eight countries, stressing that the house also offered relief aid in the amount of KD 254,000 to 16 different countries, including Palestine, the Sudan, Mauritania, Lebanon, Afghanistan, South Yemen and others.

He urged donors, (individuals and companies) to donate freely to the house to enable the funding of more different Islamic and humanitarian projects. The house has sent 40,000 letters seeking contributions to the house budget from different Gulf states.

He said that there were special boxes at the house to collect donors' deposits and financial contributions, adding that the house kept a special fund for the implementation of permanent charity projects, stressing the important role of the information media in supporting the efforts of the house and urging people to make contributions to its budget.

On the other hand, the director of public relations and information at Zakat House Abdul Rahman Al Kandari has said that Zakat House will receive Fitr Zakat (alms) from Muslims round the clock at building No. 1 of Zakat House. People who want to pay their Zakat can phone the house which sends a representative to collect Zakat from them within 24 hours. He added that house received 1518 persons during last month and 773 of them came for the first time to ask for donations or support.

The house supported 591 families during last month (February). Sociologists of the house visited 182 families last month to study their situation. The house paid costs of 28 air tickets to non-Kuwaitis who were deported from Kuwait and did not have money to pay their own tickets, he said.

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He pointed out that poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, unemployment and starvation were among the common afflictions of Muslim communities both in the west and the east.

He said that the organisation was working hard to put an end to these plights, pointing out that the performance of good deeds is a religious injunction that must be carried out by all Muslims.

He said that the functions and responsibilities undertaken by the organisation is the launching and funding of charity projects of agricultural, commercial and industrial nature wherever needed in the Islamic world, and spreading God's religion on earth through all available audio-visual and oral means.

He added that the organisation also assigned qualified Muslim scholars and teachers to take over the responsibility of spreading teachings of Islam in the world, and also funded the construction of social, health and religious centres wherever needed.

He added that the mainline operations of the organisation rested on the task of firstly, the raising and development of funds and donations provision of financial aid and implementation of public service projects, while stepping up lucrative investment enterprises to keep steady growth of needed funds.

Bakeries working round the clock

SALES and Marketing Manager at Kuwait Bakeries and Flour Mills Company, Adel Al Zokair said the company has made available large quantities of "Reqaq" bread which is highly in demand during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The bakeries remain in operation round the clock he said.

The official said that the daily average sales of Arabic bread during Ramadan amounted to 2,250,000. He indicated that sales of bread increases during winter and school season and drops during summer and the travel season.

Zokair said that unsold bread are sent to the Returns Selling Centre located in Shuwaik and are resold as livestock fodder. He said that Kuwait Bakeries and Flour Mills Company has a total of 9 bread

factories — eight of which manufacture Arabic bread and the other European.

He said that a number of automatic bakeries will be established in the future, particularly at Al Qurain area due to the high population. Another plan is to establish another bakery in Failaka to cater to residents there.

He indicated that nearly 90 per cent of food companies in Kuwait receive their bread from the company products directly and the company is undertaking several studies to increase the quality of their products. He said that three new products will soon be distributed at the local market.

Zokair said that places designated for selling bread at co-operative societies will open during the morning and evening periods.

Gas stations get assistants

KUWAIT Oil Company has distributed a number of workers at some company gasoline stations to assist and guide old individuals and females while filling their vehicles with fuel. Other self-service gasoline stations will be provided with assistants in the near future.

Official sources at the company added that a tender was awarded recently for the modernisation and transformation of

six gasoline stations to self-service stations. They indicated that the company is currently establishing a number of new self-service stations in different areas including Jahra, Rawdah and Qarnayn.

The sources stated that the idea of handing over gasoline stations to private ownership has not been yet finalised and that the company is still studying the feasibility of such a move.

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Industry maintenance costs exorbitant: Zamel

70pc plants have no programmes

THE Acting Director-General of Al Shuaiba Industrial Authority, Abdul Karim Al Zamel speaking at a seminar organised by the authority to debate a questionnaire on the feasibility of establishing a central workshop for maintenance warned of the difficulties of maintenance experienced national plants.

The official commented that plants of Al Shuaiba authorities incur exorbitant

costs for maintenance and he called for the establishment of a central workshop for carrying out the needed maintenance.

He said that some Kuwaiti plants expend about 25 per cent of their budgets on maintenance. He referred to a study prepared in this connection by the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) over establishing of central maintenance workshop in the industrial areas

of the Arab Gulf countries. This study, he said, was based on a sample consulting ten plants in the region and clarified that the study indicated that there are no specific programmes for maintenance at most of these plants.

He added that the study showed that about 70 per cent of plants have no specific programmes for maintenance, 60 per cent follow several methods and 34 per cent

were maintained by in-house employees.

The seminar was attended by Naser Al Ajeel, deputy director-general of the authority for financial and administrative affairs and the Deputy Director-General of Planning Affairs and Development, Abdul Aziz Al Ahmed, in addition to the Head of Development Planning Department Dahi Al Fadli and Director of Technical Services, Mohammed Rashed.



Fish galore at the market but fishermen are disappointed with sales.

Fish prices drop as buyers stay away

By Fares Al Salman

DURING the Holy Month of Ramadan most people tend not to eat sea food particularly fish because it is heavy for the digestive system and causes thirst and dryness.

Due to the low demand of sea food in general and fish in particular prices have dropped and it seems certain that it will decline further.

Hassan Al Tammimi a shop-

per at the Shuwaikh fish market said that due to low demand almost every type of fish is available in abundance. He complained that despite the drop in demand fish prices are still high during the Holy Month of Ramadan. He indicated that one kilogram of Zubaidi is sold at KD2,000 and Hamour is sold at KD1,000. The price of these varieties are the same even when it is not Ramadan.

Ali Zaki Husain considered

fish prices low. He added that during the Holy Month of Ramadan fasters prefer to stay away from fish. He indicated that fish prices drop almost to half during Ramadan of each year. He expected a further decline in the prices of fish at Shuwaikh Fish Market particularly during the middle of Ramadan.

Salem Saleh Thiyab said that nobody can judge whether fish prices have already declined but

looking at past experience, fish prices decline during Ramadan. He said that fasters would rather concentrate on other foods during Ramadan because fish has a tendency to cause dryness and therefore the body would require more water.

On the other hand, Mohammed Nayef, a fish dealer indicated that fish sales during Ramadan drop a lot. He added he knows from previous

experience that most people prefer to eat meat and poultry rather than sea food and fish during Ramadan.

Kathem Ahyat indicated that most fishermen don't go fishing during the Holy Month of Ramadan because the reason local markets will witness a decline in fish supplies. He added that despite scarce supply fish prices will decline during the coming weeks of Ramadan.

Environment department measuring pollutants

THE Projects Environmental Studies Section at the Environmental Protection Department at the Public Health Ministry has reportedly studied the environmental impact of a number of projects sponsored by different private and public agencies.

The project includes the study and planning of East Seif area, for which department personnel carried out studies aimed at calculating the volume of pollutants emanating from the burning of different types of fuel in Doha east and west water and power plants, using climatic data needed from the Rahiya station.

Levels

Results arrived at showed the concentration level of carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides measured at varying lengths from the source of pollution, (chimneys) on different locations from the study site, were within the limits permitted at average and maximum wind speed rates which commonly hit the country.

Moreover, the volume of gases emitted from the burning of automobile fuels, which come first among air pollutants, particularly carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides.

Other measures dealt with the projected volume of traffic noise and recommendations adopted as to ways to reduce the high level of underground water and related effects.

Indian exams

PUNJAB University Examinations for BA/B.Com./MA will be held at Indian embassy premises with effect from 4th April 1990, a press release from the Indian embassy said. The exams will be held as follows:

BA I year/ BA part III (Pass course)/ B.Com I year course/ 0630

-0930 hrs. BA II year/B.Com II year/ MA part I/ 1130-1430 hrs.

Concerned candidates are advised to contact the embassy immediately.



Nasser receives UK envoy

Social Affairs and Labour Minister, Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad received at his office recently the new United Kingdom Ambassador to Kuwait.

Plan to control smuggling

Be alert, residents warned

THE Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem has said that the governorate prepared two plans to control smuggling via overland and marine routes, pointing out that the overland plan will be completed before the end of this year.

He told a local daily that Kuwait provided undivided attention, support and incentives to security personnel to encourage them to perform their duties optimally, adding that a number of training programmes would be prepared for police personnel and citizens during the current year.

These courses would centre on enhancing police skills in the field of security and educate people how to co-operate with securitymen in protecting vital government installations such as oil and other facilities.

He said that 80 per cent of the total auto burglaries reported took place in daylight, and the responsibility rested on the owners of these cars who carelessly leave their cars open. He added that the central reason for theft in general was lack of parental guidance and family failure to educate their children in how to be good individuals.

The governorate is co-ordinating with the Ministry of Education to spread awareness and warnings against law-breaking, and special efforts have been made to nourish the sense of responsibility and national allegiance among youngsters, which have been so far positively fruitful.

Security commanders who have long served in one area acquire valuable experience and knowledge of all the ins and outs of this area which is reflected in the effective measures taken to keep law and order.

However, the one and only negative result of this is the mounting effect of personal connections which jeopardised the performance of duties, Sheikh Salem said.

He added that the re-circulation of commanders in the different areas helped in providing a changed scenario to step up their performance and assume their duties responsibly and with high integrity.

He emphasised the important role of the newly formed governorate councils, pointing out that the main function of these councils is to supervise the implementation of public services by the relevant government agencies and ministries in their respective governorate. These councils are enabled by their formation decree to take decision against certain negative aspect which would be submitted to the governor for discussion with the relevant government authorities.

He added that the councils monitored the works of ministries and reported shortcomings to the minister with recommendations on how best to deal with the irregularity in question.

The official warned against subversive views of some who try to spread rumours and instigate grudges aimed at disrupting the Kuwaiti fold and raising doubts about the integrity of certain figures seeking to stir up trouble and disunite close Kuwaiti ranks.

He said that the resumption of parliamentary life in Kuwait reflected the leadership's insistence on safeguarding the original Kuwaiti traditions on shura (consultation) in the best interest of the country, which is conducted in an atmosphere of cordial dialogues aiming at giving all a fair chance to express their opinion within the framework of time-honoured Kuwaiti regulations and conventions.

He said that the reason for the frequency of road accidents in the governorate, which become more evident during off days and week ends, is the presence of chalets and private resorts close to highways, adding that young drivers were mostly responsible for these accidents.

League slams anti-Iraq rhetoric

TUNIS, March 31, (Kuna): The Arab League has criticised the Western campaign against Iraq, and said those worried by the prospects of Iraq's nuclear capabilities should at least show the same alarm over Israel's nuclear arsenal.

The League, in a statement released here last night, reaffirmed Iraq's right to acquire the technologies that benefit its economic development and pointed out the fact that international watchdog bodies never complained about Iraq violating the nuclear non-proliferation agreement.

Last Wednesday the customs authorities at London's Heathrow airport seized what was alleged to be nuclear triggering devices destined for Baghdad. Iraq denied the krypton type triggers were for development of nuclear arms, and rebuffed Britain's charges that it was involved in the attempt to smuggle the triggers.

The League statement expressed hope that Britain would exercise self-restraint in dealing with the affair and show consideration for its relations with the rest of the Arab world.

Plot

In Kuwait, meanwhile, a local newspaper said in a front page splash an attack against Iraq was being plotted.

But the paper stressed that Iraq was now fully prepared to repel such potential aggression, be it coming from Israel or any other party.

Israeli warplanes destroyed Iraq's Tammouz nuclear reactor in 1981 as Iraq was preoccupied with its war with neighbouring Iran.

Quoting Arab sources in London, the Kuwaiti daily emphasised that Iraq was now much stronger, militarily and technically, than it was in 1981, indicating that any attack on Iraqi installations would be intercepted before it reaches its targets.

Block expansionist designs: Zanon

Jewish conspiracy attacked

KUWAIT, March 31, (Kuna): A ranking Palestinian official said the Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine was too great a conspiracy for Palestinians to face alone and called for support from Arab, Islamic and non-aligned countries.

Deputy speaker of the Palestinian parliament in exile, Salim Al Zanon, told a rally here last night the Soviet Union had been tricked by the US and Israel into allowing the Jewish exodus to Israel as Moscow sought to rid itself from the stigma of human rights violations.

Zanon, who is also executive committee member of the PLO's largest component Fatah, said the Soviet Union should act more seriously to prevent Israel from settling Soviet Jews in occupied Arab territories.

Zanon said the occupied Palestine was too small to accommodate an additional three million Jews who are expected to arrive in the coming few years.

Referring to Israel's expansionist designs in lieu with the influx of emigrants, the Palestinian official said "the battle no longer concerns Palestinians alone... it's no longer the battle for South Lebanon, or (Syrian heights of) Golan. It's rather the battle of all the Arab and Islamic nations," he said.

Zanon charged that the US-Israeli peace plan of last year and

proposed elections in the occupied areas were designed to create a rift among Palestinians. But the Palestinian leadership dodged the trap, Zanon said, pointing out that the scheme backfired cracking the Israeli government and bringing down the ruling coalition.

The rally, marking the 16th anniversary of the Palestinian Land Day, was attended by Arab ambassadors and addressed by representatives of Palestinian and Kuwaiti popular organisations.

In a related development the Arab League undertook Thursday night to back and support the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where an unabated revolt against Israeli occupation has been raging since Dec 1987.

In a statement marking the 14th anniversary of Land Day, the Arab League, which groups 22 states, vowed that "the Arab nation will back them — the Palestinians — and will support their struggle and steadfastness until they have achieved their goals of freedom and peace."

The Arab statement stressed that Land Day, "represents a qualitative jump in the Palestinian struggle inside the occupied home in defence of the land and in confrontation of the occupation authorities' attempts to eliminate the Palestinian identity."

Meanwhile, Jordan's Prime

Minister Mudhar Badran has renewed his country's support for the Palestinian uprising, saying Jordan and Palestine were "the breast and back" of Arab resistance to the Zionist expansionist designs.

Badran, addressing a massive rally marking Land Day, stressed that the cohesion of the Palestinian and Jordanian national unity was one of the most meaningful forms of support for the Palestinian intifada against Israeli occupation.

In what appeared to be a reference to attempts to drive a wedge between Jordan and Palestinians in recent months, the Jordanian premier said the two sides were now facing the "last chapter" of hostile designs intended to terminate the Palestinian struggle and Jordan's steadfast position.

Saluting the intifada, Badran said it was a testimony that Palestinians would continue to reject compromising their rights to statehood and sovereignty.

Inviting support for his country, Badran said strengthening Jordan "to withstand pressures, blackmail and even cajoling" was one of the key forms of support for the heroic uprising.

The rally which went into a late hour of the night was also addressed by Speaker of the Palestinian Parliament in exile Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh and other Palestinian and Jordanian speakers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, March 31, (Kuna): HH the Amir sent a cable of congratulations to President of the Republic of Malta on the occasion of his country's National Day.

AECU proposals

AMMAN, March 31, (Reuters): The Arab Economic Unity Council urged Kuwait yesterday not to quit the group and said it had adopted Kuwaiti proposals to improve its performance.

The 13-member council asked it to "stay with its brethren during these tough conditions which the Arab nation is passing through and which demand more Arab solidarity."

Kuwait said last week it was leaving the council because it had rejected several proposals for improvements.

In a statement carried by the official news agency Petra, the Amman-based council said it had adopted all the suggestions.

These included defining its role to avoid duplication with similar Arab organisations, cutting salaries and staff and trimming the budget elsewhere.

Kuwait previously covered nearly a third of the council's budget but had failed to pay its dues for the past four years and now owes more than \$1.5 million.

The council, set up in 1964 to promote economic union, is an Arab League institution but participation is optional for league members.

Help for Muslims

KUWAIT, March 31, (Kuna): Board chairman of the Islamic Heritage Revival Society Khaled Al Sultan has underlined the society's determination to help Muslims all over the world.

In an interview with Kuna, Sultan said the society has established a special department to defend Islam and noted that the department was able to guide thousands of people into embracing Islam.

He said events sometimes force the society to reserve part of its efforts for some countries and cited the establishment of the solidarity committee with the Palestinian people to help them overcome their problems.

He noted that the society has established similar committees in Afghanistan, Africa, Southeast Asia and in Arab countries.

Cigarettes analysed

ABOUT 19,000 samples representing 148 kinds of cigarettes from 22 countries have been analysed in Kuwait during 1988, a local daily quoted a report issued by Environment Protection Council of the Ministry of Public Health.

The report said that a routine system had been set up for taking relevant samples through the inspection divisions at Shuwaikh Port, Al Sulabiya Area and international airport.



Training course

36 government employees completed recently two training courses organised by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. The Deputy Director General, Homoud Al Mudal presented certificates to the trainees after the course.

Saudis urge rebel aid

NICOSIA, March 31, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia urged its citizens Friday to mark the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan by donating money to mujahadeen rebels in Afghanistan.

"The duty imposed by our Muslim religion calls on everyone of us to back our mujahadeen brethren," said

Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh.

"The Afghan Muslim people are now facing attempts to isolate them from their creed and obliterate their Muslim identity, but they are determined to continue the struggle until they achieve victory, with God's will," he said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency.

Saudi Arabia sustains tremendous growth in agriculture

SAUDI Arabia achieved phenomenal success in the eighties in agriculture by surpassing the performance of all countries in the world in this sector. The kingdom is now poised to sustain its tremendous growth in the production of both agricultural outputs and technology in the nineties by launching a number of ambitious and expensive projects, according to an editorial in the latest edition of Arab World Agribusiness, a respected Bahrain-based agricultural journal.

According to Dr P.K. Pillai, managing editor of (AWA), Saudi Arabia has become the world's most dynamic market for agricultural machinery, irrigation system, animal feeds, dairy and poultry equipment and fishing gear. The kingdom, he added, not only achieved multi-dimensional growth in the farm sector, with self-sufficiency in major food items, but has also become a fairly large exporter of a wide

range of farm products and agricultural machinery. According to FAO agricultural production figures Saudi index increased from 100 in 1980 to 329 in 1988, 229 per cent rise or an annual average of 29 per cent. During the same period the average world farm production rose by just around 17 per cent or an annual rate of just over 2 per cent.

The editorial further commented that over the past decade Saudi Arabia has been engaged in massive investments in beating agricultural sector with remarkable results. Investments in the farming sector increased from SR 1332 million during 1976-80 to SR 21,700 million during 1981-86. Investments are expected to remain high during the new five-year plan (1990-95). It has been reported that "approximately \$3000 million will be spent to improve Saudi agricultural and food

processing machinery" during this period.

The Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank has been playing a key role in the course of the country's agricultural growth by extending loans for projects and related farming activities. About SR 755 million was allocated during the year 1988-89. New agricultural projects receiving bank loans accounted for 29 per cent. A total of 151 projects received bank loans during this period.

The report emphasised Saudi Arabia's performance for investing in large-scale agricultural projects as finance is not an obstacle like in other developing countries.

Following the success of the recently concluded Saudi Agriculture 90 Show, international companies are now keen than ever to invest in the kingdom's rapidly expanding agricultural market.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

GET your facts first, then you can distort them as much as you please — Mark Twain, author.

Massive arms buildup Global detente eludes Asia

TOKYO. (Reuters): The Berlin Wall is coming down, Nato and Warsaw Pact chiefs fraternise as if the cold war were just a bad dream, yet Asian governments ruling half of mankind are heaping still more money on the military.

While politicians in Europe and the United States talk openly of a "peace dividend" — the hoped-for saving of massive sums hitherto earmarked for defence — there seems little chance of that happening in Asia.

Spending

Asia's big powers are determined not to lower their guard and China and India have both announced big jumps in military spending.

Continuing tension in North Asia is forcing Japan — Washington's principal ally in the region — to keep up its massive expenditure, while South Korea remains locked in confrontation with communist North Korea.

In Indochina, Vietnam says it will reduce its 1.1 million-strong army to half a million now that it has withdrawn from Cambodia but in that country civil war grinds on and Phnom Penh is looking in to enlarge its military strength.

Neighbouring Thailand maintains a high level of vigilance, with defence remaining at about 18 per cent of total budget.

The biggest spending increase is in India, which already has the world's third largest army and the region's biggest navy.

In late March, Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's government announced plans to raise its military budget to 157.5 billion rupees (\$9.54 billion) for 1990-91, a 21 per cent increase over last year. "This increase in defence expenditure is not of our choice. It is the direct result of the situation on our borders," said Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate.

While he did not name them, India's two big defence worries are Pakistan and China.

Disputed

India says Pakistan is arming and training secessionists in disputed Punjab and Kashmir, charges that Islamabad denies. The two countries have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, and New Delhi says US arms supplies to Pakistan are a major reason for its own big defence bill.

India's military build-up began under Singh's predecessor, Rajiv Gandhi. Western diplomats say Rajiv wanted to make India a dominant Asian power, with naval control of the Indian Ocean and a 1.2 million-strong army that could be rapidly deployed in South Asian trouble spots.

Gandhi demonstrated this policy in 1987 by sending 50,000 troops to Sri Lanka to fight Tamil rebels — the last units rebased only in March this year. In 1988 he dispatched a force to the Maldives to help the government there crush a coup.

India also has a long-running border dispute with China, with whom it fought a limited war in 1962.

Over the past decade China has built up its ability to take part in regional conflicts, diplomats in Beijing say. But for the moment the world's most populous nation seems absorbed by its own grave domestic problems.

Commentators agree the decision by Beijing's hardline leaders to boost military spending more than 15 per cent in the coming year to 28.9 billion yuan (\$6.1 billion) was motivated less by international concerns as by a need to ensure the loyalty of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

China's geopolitical situation improved markedly in 1989 when a historic rapprochement with Moscow after decades of hostility brought hopes of lowered tensions.

Crush

Only weeks later, however, elderly politicians panicked at mass anti-government demonstrations in Tiananmen Square sent troops into central Beijing to crush them, killing hundreds, possibly thousands of civilians.

Since then the official press, tacitly confirming reports of unprecedented dissension within the PLA over its new "internal security" role, has carried repeated appeals to the military to show unwavering loyalty to the Communist Party.

Along with exhortations have come more funds. "It's the pay-off for being loyal and true," said a Western analyst.

While China looks resolutely inwards, however, Japan looks out towards mainland Asia and doesn't like what it sees.

Invoking what they call an undiminished Soviet threat in Asia and fierce tension of the Korean peninsula, Japanese defence officials want military spending to remain at a total for the next five years of around 23,000 billion yen (\$147 billion).

South Korea still spends five per cent of its surging gross national product on defence and shows no sign of reducing that figure. Pyongyang spends 24 per cent of its much smaller GNP.

Seoul, which has long relied heavily on US support for its defence, estimated last year it could become self-sufficient by 1996 if it continued spending at the same level.

In 1989, South Korea spent 6,300 billion won (\$9 billion) on defence and economic planners expect this to rise to 1990 to almost 6,900 billion (\$9.85 billion). At current rates, the increase barely outpaces inflation.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1496 — Pope Alexander VI forms Holy League with Holy Roman Empire, Spain, Venice and Milan, ostensibly to fight Turks but aimed at expelling Charles VIII of France from Italy.
- 1683 — Poland forms alliance with Holy Roman Empire against Turks.
- 1854 — US Commodore Perry makes first treaty with Japan, opening two Japanese ports to trade with outside world.
- 1877 — Bartle Frere is named British high commissioner of South Africa with instructions to work toward federation.
- 1889 — Eiffel Tower is opened in Paris.
- 1905 — German Kaiser William II's visit to Tangier sets off first Moroccan crisis.
- 1913 — Turkey accepts recommendations of great powers for peace with Bulgaria.
- 1918 — Toward end of World War I, the Royal Air Force was founded. Two months later, Britain began bombing industrial targets in Germany from bases in France.
- 1936 — Britain and France pledge to support Poland if it is invaded.
- 1941 — Germans launch counter-offensive in North Africa in World War II.
- 1942 — Japan's successes in Burma and Andaman Islands threaten India's west coast during World War II.
- 1945 — American forces swarmed ashore on the Japanese island of Okinawa, to begin the bloodiest and longest battles of WW II.
- 1948 — US Congress passes Marshall Aid Pact for European recovery.
- 1955 — Chinese Communist Party begins purge.
- 1966 — Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd's Nationalist Party wins greatest election victory in South Africa's history.
- 1986 — World oil prices dip below \$10 a barrel.
- 1987 — About 800 leftist guerrillas kill 43 soldiers and US military adviser in attack on major Army base in El Salvador.

TO REUNIFICATION!



TO FREE MARKETS!!



TO NATIONALIST IDENTITY!!



SAY... ARE YOU GOING TO BE SOME KIND OF TROUBLE-MAKER?!



Motives deterrence rather than offensive

Big arms stockpile in Mideast

NICOSIA. (Reuters): Iraq's nuclear aspirations and the arms buildup in the Middle East appear aimed more at deterrence than offence, military and political analysts said on Thursday.

But they emphasised the dangers of miscalculation and confrontation in one of the world's most volatile regions.

Arab nations, Israel and Iran are estimated to have spent around \$40 billion on defence in 1988. Analysts believe the current level is similar.

"The underlying reason is one of security rather than of threat, deterrence rather than offence," said Don Kerr of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Middle East weaponry hit the headlines again on Wednesday when Britain accused three people of trying to smuggle US-made triggers for nuclear weapons to Baghdad.

Iraq, already at loggerheads with Britain over the execution in Baghdad of a London-based journalist on spying charges, flatly denied any involvement.

Analysts said Iraq undoubtedly wanted nuclear arms despite having signed the 1968 nuclear non-proliferation pact. But it was not clear how far it had progressed in putting together a nuclear weapons programme.

Estimates on how long it would take Baghdad to join the nuclear club ranged between five and 15 years.

Zeev Eytan of Israel's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, asked when Iraq would achieve nuclear

capability, told Israeli radio: "It is impossible to know an exact date. Our publication estimated a few months ago it would be within five years."

But verification — as in the case of Israel's nuclear programme — will be difficult in a region noted for secrecy.

Philip Robins, Middle East research fellow at London's Royal Institute for International Affairs, warned that Iraq's nuclear aspirations and development of long-range missiles could set it on a collision course with Israel.

Israel bombed a French-supplied nuclear research reactor near Baghdad in 1981 fearing it was part of a weapons programme.

"There is growing tension between Iraq and Israel, even though neither side wants it... a growing tension that could get out of hand in the future. I think it's a very worrying situation," Robins told Reuters by telephone.

He believed the situation between Iraq and Iran was stable despite continuing deadlock in talks following the August 1988 ceasefire that halted their eight-year Gulf war.

Another analyst saw the scenario in reverse, however.

Fred Halliday, professor of international relations at the London School of Economics, said Israel and Iraq were constrained by humanitarian and international factors which did not apply to relations between Iraq and Iran.

"The Iraqis have the capability of hitting Israel,

but I don't think that is likely. I think Iraq is aiming at Iran."

He said both Baghdad and Tebran felt cheated over lack of a clear-cut victory in the Gulf war and the underlying resentment and weapons purchases boded ill for the future.

He saw Iraq with a first-strike potential using nuclear arms to force major concessions from Iran, which also has a continuing nuclear research programme.

Don Kerr suggested deterrence was also a factor in the Iraqi programme.

"If President Saddam Hussein can get nuclear weapons, that puts him in a position of being able to say to the people in Tehran, 'stay away'."

Kerr noted it was the Gulf war that brought surface-to-surface missiles as a major force to the region, with Iran and Iraq seeking ways to attack population centres.

The threat of chemical warheads on missiles striking Tehran is believed to have been a major factor in persuading Iran's leaders to accept the 1988 ceasefire.

Analysts said the military balance between Iraq and Iran was central to the power balance in the Gulf.

They said the regional ambitions of Baghdad and Tehran had spurred an arms buildup among other Gulf Arab states as a deterrent. Money channelled to Iraq during the Gulf war was now being spent on their own continuing defence programmes.

US blacks make political gains

ATLANTA. (Reuters): American civil rights campaigners are rounding off a month of celebrations marking a tumultuous quarter-century of advances which has seen laws banning racial bias in elections and blacks taking their place in state capitals and city halls across the United States.

America's first black state governor took office two months ago, one-time clergyman Andrew Young is running for governor, black leader Jesse Jackson was runner-up for his party's nomination for president in 1988, and black mayors run such major US cities as New York, Los Angeles, Detroit, Seattle, Cleveland and the nation's capital, Washington.

Blacks serve in Congress, in state legislatures and on city councils in numbers unimaginable 25 years ago.

"I think for black politicians, the best is yet to come," says Merle Black, an Emory University specialist on southern politics.

Political progress for blacks largely reflects changes in the American south, where black slaves tended the soil for white owners until 1865 and were largely excluded from power until the mid-1960s.

The campaign for black voting rights, which culminated on March 25, 1965, with Martin Luther King Jr.'s march on Montgomery, Alabama, led to widespread registration of blacks, and gave them the political clout they lack.

Alabama native John Lewis was regularly arrested and sometimes beaten as a young protest leader during the 1960s. But as a Congressman from Atlanta since 1987, he is now among about 4,000 black elected officials from a region which had only a handful before the voting rights movement.

"If anybody had told me 25 years ago that I'd be in Congress today... I would've believed them," Lewis told Reuters in an interview.

Before the mid-1960s, he noted that in many southern counties "there were few if any blacks registered to vote" due to complicated procedures including literacy tests administered by white officials.

But national laws made it possible to "get our people registered and... elected to responsible positions and to vote (many racist white politicians) out of office," Lewis added.

The political influence of the south's 14.5 million blacks has grown ever since, although their economic power remains well below whites and more than a third are deemed to be living in poverty. Black population in southern states ranges from a low of seven per cent in Kentucky to about one-third in Mississippi.

In the 1960s, Andrew Young was a congressional minister from New Orleans who worked with King in the voting rights campaign. A generation later, Young is still campaigning, this time to be the

first black governor of Georgia.

Young, who captured world attention as US ambassador to the United Nations under former president Jimmy Carter, has been mayor of the black-majority city of Atlanta for the past eight years.

From that base, he presided over a regional economic boom and built an alliance with white business leaders whose predecessors shuddered the thought of black political power.

Young used a campaign slogan of supporting "public-purpose capitalism." His emergence as a serious contender for Georgia governor gets its first major test on July 17 in his state's Democratic primary, where he faces four white rivals.

America's first black elected governor was installed two months ago when Democrat Douglas Wilder took the oath of office in Richmond, Virginia, once the capital of the southern confederacy of slaveholding states crushed by northern armies in the US civil war.

With black voters as his base, the Rev. Jesse Jackson was runner-up for the Democratic Party nomination for president in 1988 and won primary elections in Georgia and four other southern states.

Black Democrats have launched efforts this year to unseat right-wing Senator Jesse Helms in North Carolina and Republican Governor Carroll Campbell in South Carolina.

Squalor keeps rebellion alive

MANILA. (Reuters): Despite the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, the deep-rooted divisions in the Philippines that led to the birth of one of Asia's longest-running leftist insurgencies 21 years ago remain as stark as ever.

The outlawed communist movement here marked the 21st anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA) on Thursday determined to change a country they see as still repressed by a feudal land structure and a large US military presence.

The crumbling of communist governments in Eastern Europe and the brutal repression of protest in China has weakened the ideological base of the Philippine communist movement, political analysts said.

Rebellion

But widespread poverty, human rights abuses, injustice and corruption are likely to sustain the rebellion. President Corason Aquino has refused peace talks unless the communists agree to give up violence.

"It's not true that because it (communism) seems to be failing internationally, it is also failing domestically," said Alex Bello Brillantes, a political analyst at the University of the Philippines.

He said specific issues such as large inequalities in land distribution would continue to provide issues

for communism to exploit among the country's poor.

The NPA said in a statement marking the anniversary that it had boosted its strength and firepower, and consolidated its mass support during the four years of Aquino's rule.

It said Aquino's objective of neutralising the NPA by the end of her term in 1992 was unattainable. It also prevented the NPA as the armed alternative to those who opposed an ultra-right takeover in the Philippines by military rebels.

Manila military commander Gen. Rodolfo Biazon said the campaign to crush the NPA, founded in 1969 during the Vietnam war and at the height of chairman Mao Tse-tung's "Cultural Revolution" in China, has been held up by last December's night-wind coup attempt.

But government forces still claim to be winning the war, rolling back NPA strength from a high of 25,000 in mid-1988 to 19,000 by the end of December.

"We still maintain that... in the country as a whole there has been a steady and substantial decline of NPA strength. NPA firearms and influence," Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told a news conference on Wednesday.

He said an upsurge of guerrilla attacks around the

anniversary had become almost a tradition.

The police and military said at least 87 people died in the past week in military clashes with the NPA and guerrilla attacks around Manila and on the southern island of Mindanao.

Aquino has made fighting poverty a key objective but at least 25 million of the country's 60 million people remain below the official poverty line.

Her controversial land reform programme, designed to break up feudal estates and distribute land to poor farmers, has become bogged down by scandal and the refusal of Congress to approve her last two nominations for land reform secretary.

The Philippine military has cashed in on a series of propaganda setbacks for the NPA, including the unearthing of graves of communist sympathisers apparently shot by the rebels because they feared they were government agents.

But the simmering conflict remains the largest communist insurgency still being fought in Southeast Asia, and the guerrillas have countered the success of military operations in the countryside with hit-and-run attacks in cities.

About 100 soldiers, policemen and officials have died in the past two years in Manila street attacks by leftist death squads, called "Sparrows" for their quickness, police say.

Monks get new freedom

ULAN BATOR. Mongolia. (AP): Mongolia's once-powerful Buddhist monks, nearly wiped out during seven decades of communist rule, are cautiously joining the new pro-democracy movement in hopes of winning freedom from state control.

When crowds first began rallying in December to demand free elections and other reforms, only one young monk, Batsan, dared join.

But buoyed by the successes of the activists winning the ouster of top communist officials, Mongolia's only surviving monastery has ventured into politics for the first time since the days of Bogd, a ranking monk who was king from 1911 to 1915.

Gandan monastery's agenda is short: it wants abolition of the State Committee on Religion, which regulates religious activities and freedom to open more temples and monasteries.

"We would like to expand our religious activity... train more monks and publish sutras," or scriptures, said Gandan, the monastery's Hamba Lama, or leading monk.

Mongols, like Tibetans, believe in Lamaism, Buddhism, a mix of Buddhism and Tantric ritual. Monks are called Lamas.

Gandan said he believes Lamas can be forces for good in Mongolian politics, but he has no dreams of a return to the pre-communist days, when Mongolia's more than 700 monasteries and temples wielded great power and absorbed half the male population as Lamas.

"There may be several hundred monasteries in a few years if controls are lifted," he said, "but not 700. Quality is more important than quantity."

The monasteries were closed in the late 1930s, reportedly at the urging of Soviet leader Josef Stalin and on the pretext that they harboured Japanese spies and weapons.

Priceless

Their priceless gold and silver statues were sold, shipped to the Soviet Union or destroyed. Their lands were nationalised and monks were forced to find secular work. About 24,000 monks were killed, according to official figures.

Government propaganda denounced the Lamas as exploiters. A poster still hanging in the state central museum shows a Lama with his mouth opened wide, swallowing up acres and people.

In 1944, the government allowed Gandan Ulan Bator to reopen, but barred its monks from preaching outside monastery grounds. It now has about 160 Lamas. Gandan said the government plans to reopen two more monasteries this year.

On March 11, several thousand Buddhist believers, Lamas and members of the leading opposition group, the Mongolian Democratic Association, held a rally at a former temple in Ulan Bator that has been turned into a museum and demanded it be reopened for worship.

They announced the formation of a "non-official union of Mongolian believers" to promote religious interests, the first independent religious group in Mongolia in decades.

When several dozen pro-democracy activists held a two-day hunger strike for democratic reform in mid-March, Lamas came to pray for them. Batsan said. He played an increasingly prominent role in protests organised by the democratic association.

Last week, Gandan monastery sent a letter to the Great People's Hural, or legislature, asking it to disband the Committee on Religion.

The Hamba Lama's aide, Dorjgiov, said leaders from the democracy movement and the government have begun coming frequently to talk with Gandan in the evenings. "They don't come officially, but as human beings," he said. The Hamba Lama said he is open to both.

Compassion

"According to Buddhism, everybody must be under compassion," he said. "So our attitude will be the same to the current (Communist) Party and to the democratic forces."

So far, no one seems worried about such issues as separation of religion and politics or whether the Lamas could someday regain political power.

"It's impossible," said Ulan Khu, a member of the opposition Social Democrats. He said that would be impossible because the communists "completely destroyed the system; there are so few monks."

Their influence over Mongolia's 2 million people also is in doubt. Dorjgiov insisted that most Mongolians remain Buddhist, despite the atheist education system.

Many youths to Ulan Bator say they do not believe, although they have been culturally influenced by Buddhism. Some support its revival as a moralising force. Especially regarding protection of nature, which Buddhists revere.

Buddhism also has appeal as part of Mongolia's national heritage, which only recently could be celebrated after decades of emphasising socialist internationalism.

"An entire world is behind that word, Lamaism — our ancient philosophy, mathematics, linguistics, pharmacology — our whole culture," said Dr G. Boshig, a physician and leading member of the Democratic Association.

"Even if the Lamas don't make political demands, they will represent a political force."

QUOTE ME

"The Supreme Soviet declares a beginning of a period of transition which will culminate in the formation of the constitutional organs of the state power of the republic of Estonia. The restoration of the republic of Estonia has begun. — A sovereignty declaration from the Estonian Parliament."

"We warn the Polish government against providing any assistance in transporting Soviet Jews to our sacred Palestinian land." — A handwritten Arabic statement said after an attempt to slay a Polish diplomat in East Beirut.

"The biggest reason for this determination is that war is no solution to any problem." — Pakistani foreign minister in the Kashmir problem.

"They are fighting for a house to house in Kfar Beit, trading hit-and-run guerrilla assaults in the streets of Beirut. But no side has made any territorial gains so far." — A police spokesman on the bloodletting between Aoun and Geagea.

"If Lithuania secedes from the Soviet Union, Byelorussia will not consider itself bound by all laws, decrees and resolutions dealing with the turnover of part of Byelorussian lands of Lithuania." — Last citing a statement by the Byelorussian Supreme Soviet, or Parliament.

Why Matlock can't stop smiling

Top TV series Matlock is growing all the time and Europe is at last getting a chance to follow the exploits of the cunning defence attorney. But Andy Griffiths, who plays the part, finds it all a big joke.

By Sharon O'Reilly

TV star Andy Griffiths, who plays tough telly defence attorney Matlock in the series of the same name, has made a secret admission: he finds it hard to play the role without cracking up laughing.

For the scrappy-faced heart-throb only became an actor after years as a successful comic.

Sixty-one-year-old Andy plays a wily, cunning defence attorney. Ben Matlock, whose keen legal mind is often underestimated because of his charming manner.

He is watched by millions every week in the US — where the series is high in the ratings — and by millions more in Europe. Recently, he and his co-stars made a special two-part episode in London.

But, he admits: "I find it really hard to keep a straight face. There are so many situations where I just want to giggle or do something silly and amusing."

And the hardest part of all, says Andy, is to play a love scene. "I now refuse to play them and if I do I nearly always crack up laughing. In fact, once they had to take 60 different shots of one scene in which I had to tell a girl I loved her."

So Matlock has never gone from the courtroom to the bedroom though Andy admits that, just like his character, he admires women.

"I like the subtlety in Matlock. It takes a lot more acting ability to let the audience know that you like each other, without it developing into anything more."

Andy was lucky enough to land the part of Matlock at the age of 61. He says: "It's the best role I've ever had in my life. If anyone had told me my career would peak at this age, I'd have said they were mad."

Producers Richard Collins and Ron Carr ensure that Matlock wears the same suit for

every episode and carries the same shabby briefcase. The image they're asking for is that Matlock's mind is on higher things than fashion.

Andy, meanwhile, is quite modest about himself. He says: "Matlock is much more intelligent than I. Matlock always wins every case he tackles, even though the odds may be stacked against him."

But, for a TV star, Andy has an unusual background. After school, he studied to become a preacher. But he became so involved in music that he had to make a choice between God and a brass band. He chose the latter.

He says: "I really found it hard to make that decision, but music won in the end."

He then decided to branch into singing, but he wasn't quite the nightingale he had imagined. "I was an awful singer," he adds. After several auditions, I reached the shattering conclusion that I couldn't sing.

But Andy's life changed direction completely when a friend showed him the script of a Shakespeare play and he experimented by giving it a comic twist. He got the chance to perform it on stage, comic-style, and it drew lots of laughs from the crowd.

"I was amazed," he said. I never expected such a reception. It was tremendous."

After that, his career as a comic really took off. He spent five years as a stand-up comic and he was so successful that he had his own top-ten television comedy show in the US called The Andy Griffith Show.

Andy also starred in a range of dramatic television and cinema productions. He played a scoundrel in A Face in the Crowd, and also starred in television films like Crime of Innocence. Under the Influence, Fatal Vision and the movie in which he first introduced the character of Ben Matlock — Diary of a Perfect Murder.

He says: "I enjoyed all of those performances, but my favourite before Matlock was my comedy show."

But even when he plays Matlock, Andy tries to inject as much humour into the performance as possible. He says: "I always think a show has more entertainment value if it

produces some laughs."

And if he has reached the peak of his career at a late stage, his love life has also blossomed lately.

The handsome actor says: "Four years ago, I married Cindy, a 31-year-old teacher from California, and it is the most wonderful union. We are so

happy together."

Cindy and Andy have been friends for years before he finally popped the question. He says: "I was ecstatic when she accepted and my happiness has grown since then. I am a very lucky man."

Which all goes to give the joker of Matlock, a lot to smile about.



Legal Eagle: Andy Griffiths (right) who stars in the hit TV series.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 1.30 Cultural programme: World's animals
- 2.00 Cartoon serial
- 2.30 Historical serial: Maal-Sabireen
- 3.05 Local cultural programme: Human health
- 3.35 Arabic serial: Qabada Bahloul
- 4.20 Local programme
- 4.45 Arabic serial: Raafat Al Hajjan
- 5.30 Religious programme
- 6.15 Religious programme: Baadal Ifar
- 6.30 Cartoons
- 7.00 Local children serial
- 8.15 Diwanat Shuaara Al Naba
- 9.45 Local programme: Sawalef Minal Madi
- 10.00 Arabic news
- 10.45 Local serial
- 11.15 Local programme 3x3
- 12.00 Arabic daily serial: Shareil Mawardi
- 1.00 Arabic film

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 8.05 Bereastain Bears: Car-



KTV2, 8.30 — The Beachcombers

- 8.30 Beachcombers: Th. children discover strange things happening in their town.
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan
- 9.45 Matlock
- 10.30 Body Matters: Scientific programme about different parts of the body and their function
- 11.00 Nut house: Nut asks Charles to administer the hotel...
- 11.30 Bestseller: Fields of Fire
- 1.00 News in brief
- 1.05 Magazine d'Actualite

CINEMA

- Al Andulus
- Street Justice
- Al Sahiyah
- Marone
- Al Hamra
- Arabic film
- Al Firdous
- Aakhri Baazi
- Fahsheel Open
- Sachai Ki Taqat
- Fahsheel
- The Boy Who Could Fly
- Al Jahra
- Mohabbat Ki Kasam
- Granada
- Bhai Ka Dushman Bhai
- Sulabikhat
- Mad Mission III
- Jeeb
- Naaduvazhikal
- Ahmad Drive-in
- Shock Troop

PPC honours delegation

PRESIDENT Pakistan People's Club Kuwait, Dr Riaz Ahmed Mahesar, hosted reception at his residence in honour of high power delegation from Pakistan Mr Nasser Shah, chairman of Rice Export Corporation of Pakistan, Khadim Ali Slah, director of Pakistan International Airlines and Pakistan Red Crescent. The reception was attended by Rafiq Ahmed Mirza General Secy PPC and other guests.

Congratulations

MOHAMMAD Jassim Younis, student of 9th class in Modern Pakistan School & College has secured the highest marks in the school's internal annual examination. Jassim secured 876 marks out of 950. He also won the award of the Best Student of the school section.



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a five Corner Queen, in a five Corner Queen, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Ladies International League

LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. All inquiries contact Ceilia on 3434946 or Barbara on 5325131.

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaitees on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office — Saturday to Thursday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Holy Week 1990

Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait

Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 3.25 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 4.30 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.45 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.55 pm, Holy Mass (English).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April — 7.15 am, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, Confession; 6.30 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam — in big hall).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am, Concelebrated Mass of Christ (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm, Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm, Adoration (English — in the big hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April — 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions; 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am, Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Swedish Ladies Meeting

The Swedish ladies will hold a coffee afternoon on April 3, Tuesday. For further details call 5317473.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal." Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Sindhu Devi

PADMASREE Dr. K.J. Yesudas and leading famous play back singer Miss Sindhu Devi is coming to Kuwait to perform two days musical concert on April 24th and 25th 1990 in Granada Theatre, Kheitan.

Saligocars

CALLING all Saligocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Rcs), Aloa Carvalho, 241142 Res. 246121, Americo Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729, Tny Cordiro off, 2415401, Res. 2412337.

Approb Eid dinner

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen is organising a Gala Eid Milan Party on the second day of Eid Al Fitr, an Approb press release said.

The Gala Party programme will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes, the press release said. The venue of the party will be announced shortly.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of ten. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistan schools in Kuwait.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre will present a St. George's Night show on Wednesday 18th April. Stage crew, wood butchers and set painters are required now. Set construction begins on Saturday 31st March at 6.30 pm in the theatre. Call the stage manager on 3725407 for details.

Ladies International League

LIL'S BIG MEETING: Monday, April 2, 1990 from 7 pm to 10 pm — Sheraton Hotel Ballroom A. This month's programme shall be health, exercise and jazzercise. Audience participation welcomed but not required. Please join us for fun, refreshment, entertainment and socialising. Doors open at 7 pm, refreshments at 7.30 and programme starts at 8 pm sharp. Doors shall close at 7.45 pm sharp.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Ronnie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin — Janisto Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sehy Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Konkani Ani Sonios (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact

4817857.

Approb essay competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding an essay competition on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan." The essays between 1000 and 1500 words, in Urdu or English, should be sent by 15th of April.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel. Approb, 2425315. Fax. 5323751.

Rose Ferns' drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinxe" (Broken Glass) and "Belman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Quran Khawan

A meeting was held at the residence of Nazir Dogar under the Chairmanship of Dr Riaz Ahmed Mahesar, president Pakistan People's Club, regarding the observance of 11 death anniversary of former prime minister and chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on April 4.

The meeting was attended by all central executive committee members. It was decided to hold Quran Khawani at the residence of Hajj Qamar at 4 pm on April 4, 1990. All members are invited.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

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Reservations are open to all families.

All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact Hamid Mahmood on 4716258.

HOTELS

Mughal Mahal

FIRST Indian restaurant to introduce Mughlai cuisine in Kuwait. Enjoy our specialties such as: Khandari Tikka Mal Mali Kebab, Navratan Briyani and lots more. Ramadan timings. Carryaway pickup up's from 5 pm onwards. Dine in from 6 pm to 2 am. Tel. 2425131/2.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo — Franco & Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, mazza, etc. Enjoy Suhour from 12 pm to 3 am.

LOBBY: Lady pianist Margorata Wejsis plays in the lobby diwanija after Iftar until the end of Ramadan.

SAS Hotel

AL GHAZEER: Sails again and offers you a unique experience of the old seafaring Kuwaiti tradition. We prepared special menus you can enjoy onboard. Available for half day or full day trip, for reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext. 416.

AL BOOM: The only floating restaurant in town. Magnificent array of meze — delicious Hor's d'oeuvres together with wide range of international appetizers and salads. Choose your main course from succulent varieties of charcoal grilled delicacies — prime American beef, Gulf lobster, hamour or zubeidi. Enjoy your dilla at the diwanija overlooking the sea. For reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext. 403 or 540.

PEACOCK ROOM: Our Chinese chef recommends fried prawns with turnips and chili sauce, crispy fried smoked beef and wide varieties of delectable Chinese specialties from our chef's recommendation or take your pick from our delightful menu of sumptuous Chinese favourites.

Book for a nice table in cozy elegance of our Peacock Room. Pls. call 5657000 ext. 403 or 532.

CLOCK: Drive-in restaurant offers varieties of mouth-watering fast food items — juicy burgers, hot French fries, crispy drumsticks, and lot more plus soft drinks and juices.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

Messilah Beach Hotel

Messilah Beach Hotel is promoting an evening of seafood specialties every Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Al Mubarakiah Restaurant.

The Meridien

DURING the holy month of Ramadan LA BRASSERIE: Meridien invites you to join us for a delicious Iftar buffet being served during the holy month of Ramadan. Indulge in a sumptuous choice of traditional dishes, including a variety of mezzah, majbous, safiha, baal-baki, harissa and manasa saoudi. Complete your meal with a mouth-watering array of desserts like hasshouseh, maamoul hel tamer and kamafe.

La Brasserie will also feature a lavish buffet including desserts and delicious beverages from sunset until midnight. A La Carte items are available until 2.00 am.

AL FINGAN: Open from sunset until 2.00 am.

A tantalising selection of delicious cocktails, plus tempting cakes and traditional pastries. Live oriental duo and Argilla (Hubble-Bubble) provided to help you savour and relax in style and comfort.

AL WAHA: Open from sunset until midnight. Al Waha will offer their regular menu, plus such special refreshments as irge sous, tamer hindy, laban eiran, karakady and kamer el din. Plus, as is traditional, all drinks will be served with a dish of succulent dates.

OUTSIDE CATERING: For those of you who would prefer to break fast at home, we can cater a similar delicious Iftar Buffet and deliver right to your door for the ultimate dining convenience and comfort.

As is traditional during the month of Ramadan, ghabghab will also be available at the time of your choice, arranged exclusively for you and your guests. Just call the banquet department on 245-5550, ext. 967/929 to place your order.

SPORTS

Yoga lessons

FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonie Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

Apollo Fitness Centre

ON-GOING CLASSES: Apollo Stretch — Sun and Wed — 10.30 - 11.30 am; Apollo Workout — Sunday — 5.30 - 6.30 pm, Tuesday — 5.00 - 6.00 pm, Fast 'n' Fizzical (mixed) — Friday — 1.00 to 2.00 pm; Monday Madness — 4.00 - 5.00 pm; Tuesday treat (mixed) —

6.00 to 7.00 pm; Saturday sweatshop — 4.00 to 5.00 pm; Martial arts — Mon, Wed, Fri; Taekwondo — Sat, Mon, Wed; Hatha Yoga — enroll now for April. Call in now for further details. Tel. 4742000 ext. 6700.

Dhigly Laser Sailing

M.B.L.C. announces its Ramadan "Madhatter" racing series commencing Friday 30.3.90 and running every Tuesday and Friday until 17.4.90. Briefing times, Fridays 10.00 am, Tuesday 15.00. All members are requested to attend the pre-race meeting on Friday, 30.3.90 at 0930. New members welcome, limited number of club boats available. For further details please contact: David Clark (W) 4845171 (H) 2451791, Roger Brown (W) 4736167, (H) 5325139.

India Festival Tournaments

Indian Arts Circle in its press release, announced that an all Indian Open badminton and volleyball, tournaments will be conducted in connection with the India Festival.

All Indian teams/individuals are invited to register themselves for early fixtures to avoid disappointment.

Both the tournaments will commence on 9.4.1990 at 7.30 pm. Last date for entry will be 5.4.1990 before 10.00 pm. Fixtures will be displayed at I.A.C. on 7.4.1990 at 8.00 pm. Participation is only against India Festival Master coupons for each event/individual. For further details please contact: IAC office or India Festival Office Tel: 3904817 (5 pm-10 pm), 2456293 (5.30 pm-11 pm).

Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies and Adult sessions with Frank Novak — an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Jazzercise

Jazzercise at the Messilah Beach Hotel will be from 4.30 pm to 5.3

FILIPINO DIGEST

SNIPPETS

'Tubig': The entire Barangay Banlat in Tandang Sora, Quezon has been waterless for a month now, residents told People's Journal.

The residents said they get their daily water supply from Balintawak, delivered by trailers and sold them for P1.50 per container.

Each container, they said, contains five gallons, good only for washing dishes for a day.

"Ang iba, hindi kayang bumili ng tubig kaya nagtitiyaga na lang bumomba sa poso o kaya'y sumasalok na lang sa balon," residents said.

Many residents blamed the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for their water problem.

Seven slain in Negros: Seven communist rebels, including an Amazon, were killed in a firefight with government troops in a village in Honoban, Negros Occidental on Monday, the military reported yesterday.

Spokesman of the Negros Island Command (NICOM) said that so far only four of the slain rebels have been identified.

They were Antonio Ybanez alias Ka Fredy, a certain Tito or Ka Wally, Banne Payong alias Ka Buco and a certain Tolindoy or Ka Idol.

'Don't deal with this organisation': The Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) yesterday warned the public against engaging in business with a group using the radio in recruiting applicants for overseas job placements.

Adjudication office director Angeles Wong of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) said Overseas Workers Beneficiaries Ass. of the Philippines has been engaged in illegal recruitment since 1987.

Overseas Workers, headed by certain Manny Aberquez, uses the radio to recruit people to join the association by paying a membership fee of P500 for men and P800 for women.

Kids, women immunized: Seventy per cent of Cebu City's children and pregnant women were immunized by the city health team during the past three years, a United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) review team told city authorities yesterday.

The UN review team said the number showed an increase of 50 per cent from the 20 per cent posted in 1986.

Cebu City Mayor Tomas R. Osmeña called the report gratifying. The immunization programme was implemented by the city health department in six city hospitals, 10 barangay health centres and five urban health centres, the UNICEF review team said.

Customs men in forgery: Four Customs examiners at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) have filed charges against a fellow examiner they accused of forging their signatures in a petition denouncing NAIA Customs Collector Zafiro Respcio.

Jose Yungco, Francisco Nadular, Augusto Gotera and Leandro Montalba said their forgery charges against Benitez Jr were filed two days ago before the Sandiganbayan.

They told newsmen that Benitez signed their names in the paper against Respcio that Benitez himself had prepared.

Marijuana field raided: NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents raided Wednesday afternoon a marijuana plantation in Calamba, Laguna and arrested the suspected owner.

The raiders were led by lawyer Carlos Caabay, NBI anti-narcotics chief and seized about 30 full-grown plants of marijuana in a lot owned by Dominador dela Cruz, 44, inside the compound of New Lucky Food Products, Barangay Real, Calamba.

Also found in Dela Cruz' house were a bottle of marijuana seeds and dried marijuana leaves.

Dela Cruz admitted owning the plantation but denied making business out of it.

"Kaya lang naman ako nagtanim niyan ay dahil gamot daw sa sakit ng tiyan," Dela Cruz said.

SM Supermarket broke price law: Price monitoring teams swooped down yesterday on SM Supermarket inside the SM City in Quezon City after it was found violating the Price Control Law.

Trade officials told People's Journal that SM Supermarket was charged for selling pork liempo at P75 per kilo against the price ceiling of P60 per kilo.

Other retailers charged were the Insular Bakery on Burgos St., Makati for selling condensed milk at P13.20 against the price ceiling of P12.75 per 395 grams and powdered milk at P17.25 against the P15.25 ceiling, the Triple Crown grocery in Malate for selling evaporated milk at P12 and Taiki Food Store in Malate for pricing refined sugar at P18.95 per kilo against the ceiling of P14.80.

Retail outlets earlier found violating price control were the Abhjev Vegetables, Helen Bagbag, Eumecia Tuazon, Ciriano Lacre, Estela Paron, Emelia Rabino and Honesto Boraque of Kalayaan Market in Makati.

Japanese nabbed for rape: Police yesterday arrested a Japanese businessman for allegedly raping the 13-year-old daughter of his maid.

Uzama Yamashita, 33, of 2941 Tangli St, United Paranaque 1, Paranaque denied the crime through his wife Veronica, 23, and lawyer Benjamin Benito.

Metropolitan Police Field Force chief Lt Col Romeo Maganto ordered the arrest of Yamashita after a medical test showed the girl had been raped.

The girl told Pfc. Aquilino Almanza she was raped four times by Yamashita inside her mother's quarters in July, 1989.

Cpl Rodolfo Ilagan said his team found Yamashita inside the Take-No-Ya restaurant in Bel-Air Village, Makati.

Veronica told People's Journal that it was impossible for her husband to rape anybody because they were together at the time of the rape.

Benito claimed that the NBI medical test said there was no rupture of the hymen and there were no signs showing forcible penetration.

Balikbayan 'kills self': A young balikbayan allegedly shot himself to death shortly after he was scolded by his father in Las Pinas last Tuesday.

Mark de los Santos, 17, of 912 Cristobal St., Phase V, Gatchalian Subd., Las Pinas, died from a bullet wound in the head. He was found dead in his room at about 12:30 p.m.

The death gun was missing, police said.

Officer-on-case Cpl. Eddie Galang said that Mark was scolded by his father, Elias, for using the family car without permission.

Galang said he found a note left by Mark which read, "Sorry dad sa nangyari. Hindi na ninyo ako mapagpalitan sa pagkuha ng kotse. Hindi na mauulit. Dad, huwag mong pagalitan ang kambal. Ako ang may sala ng lahat."

Rob-murder suspect falls: The leader of a gang of robbers who robbed and stabbed to death a 65-year-old woman on Jan 27 was arrested by policemen in San Fernando, Pampanga Thursday morning.

The identity of the arrested suspect was withheld by Sto Tomas deputy police station commander Sgt. Rudy Canlas pending the arrest of the other gang members.

The suspects killed sari-sari store owner Asuncion Caviola in Barangay San Vicente, Sto. Tomas, and then robbed the old woman of her money and other valuables, Canlas said.

The arrested gang leader, of Barangay Sta. Rita, Minalin, Pampanga allegedly admitted that he was one of the men who stabbed the old woman, Canlas said.

He implicated his two brothers, a dismissed PC soldiers and a suspended security guard.

Earlier, the suspect while drunk had boasted to his drinking companion how he and his gangmates killed and robbed the old woman, Canlas said.

Man kills man over woman: A man stabbed to death another man after an argument over a woman in Pasig yesterday.

Romulo Cadag, 26, of Pineda, Pasig, was stabbed three times by Jesse Roscas, 24, who confronted him on why he courted his (Roscas) ex-girlfriend.

The woman told officer-on-case Pfc. Crispin Pio that she chose Cadag over Roscas because the former satisfied her more sexually.

Meanwhile, a dead person with a smashed head was found yesterday by Pat Roger Jugiat of the Metropolitan Police Field Force in Manggahan, Pasig.

The cadaver was brought to the Rizal Medical Center.

Filipinos ready for democracy; senator argues

By Jon Miller

MANILA, The Philippines (WNL): The bloody six-day military rebellion that almost toppled the government of Philippine President Corazon C. Aquino in December did more than frighten investors, tourists and war-weary Filipinos. It also revived a time-honoured debate about whether democracy can work in this embattled country.

For a nation full of yearning for deliverance — from poverty, from war, from corruption, from dictatorship — the processes of constitutional democracy can be frustratingly slow. In the latest and best-organized attack on the Aquino government, rebel soldiers, teaming with right-wing businessmen and politicians, tried unsuccessfully to install a civilian-military junta in place of legally-elected officials. But they are just one of many groups claiming, either implicitly or explicitly, that the system of government, modeled closely after that of the United States, is not suited to the Philippines.

This is an immature democracy," admits Rene A.V. Saguisag, a popular senator and a close personal friend of President Aquino. "There is much awareness of rights, of empowerment, but not too much awareness of duties, of being obligated to contribute to the country." But Saguisag, who is regarded by his colleagues as a stickler for legal detail, believes that the system can work. And he believes — in spite of six attempts to unseat Aquino since she took power in 1986 — that the Filipino people are too sophisticated to allow democracy to slip through their fingers.

"(Former President Ferdinand) Marcos tried to use all the trappings, the veneer of constitutionalism, but the people saw through him anyway," he says, noting that the rebel soldiers, many of whom still claim allegiance to the late dictator, were clearly less interested in preserving the appearance of democracy. Saguisag, like many other commentators, refers to those behind the coup attempt as "false Messiahs."

The Philippines is a predominantly Catholic country, and politics often takes on the vocabulary of religion. Still, Saguisag says, the people are not gullible. "You cannot waste out of the corpses and expect to be acclaimed as the Chosen One."

But the question of how to manage this politically divided island nation of 60 million is an old one. It is said that Aquino's husband, a Marcos opponent who was murdered by Marcos henchmen in 1983, believed that it was better to be in the opposition than in the presidential palace. Trying to lead the country implies some sort of authoritarian rule, he supposedly said.

That view is not uncommon here: many political observers say in private that a "benevolent dictatorship" could be the answer in the short term. But President Aquino vowed at the start of her term to be the "total opposite" of Marcos. The military rebels who have tried to remove her consider her commitment to cumbersome democratic institutions as her primary weakness.

Aquino's popularity slipped dramatically during 1989, the most common complaint being that she did not provide enough leadership. From market vendors to university professors, the refrain was the same: "She is honest, but her advisers tell her what to do. Both her cabinet and her relatives are corrupt."

The government's response to the attempted coup seemed to acknowledge that the presidency needed shoring up. In mid-December, the legislature declared a six-month state of emergency and granted the president additional powers. It's not clear how much of the public's dissatisfaction is with Aquino herself, and how much is with the failure of the country to make the expected miraculous recovery following the religiously-charged 1986 uprising that toppled Marcos. Many of the people who fought with Aquino against the Marcos dictatorship have joined a growing number of opposition groups. Some — including moderates who opposed the December revolt — have even suggested that a civilian-military council should run the country until some of the most pressing economic and political problems can be solved.

Saguisag, like the clear majority of elected officials, does not believe the military has any place in civilian politics; and he stresses, the Philippine political tradition supports this. In fact, he says, it was only under Marcos that the armed forces began to be involved in governing. The growth in the military's sense of its own importance has been one of the new government's most difficult problems. "According to the economists, we inherited the worst army in the world," the senator says. "It's bloated, it's unprofessional, it's undisciplined."

Up until now Aquino has been lenient with soldiers who took part in previous coup attempts, unwittingly adding to the impression of indecisiveness or weakness. Like many senators, Saguisag says it's now time to get tough, noting that the legal and political system is up to the challenge. "The military really needs some shock treatment in order to regain its sanity. It's time we tried to tame this monster."

In the weeks following the December coup attempt, some commentators argued that many of the gripes voiced by the right-wing rebel soldiers were legitimate. Corruption still plagues the country at every level, basic services are lacking for the poor, and the communist-led New People's Army is still forcing on the population a state of civil war. Also, soldiers who received a major pay increase soon after Aquino took office are still underpaid.

Saguisag, a former human rights lawyer who is the least wealthy of the country's 23 senators, is not sympathetic on this last point. "They are suffering economically," he says, "but so are many of us. We can beef, we can complain, we can kick. The difference is that they have the guns."

But shouldn't Aquino be more willing to exercise her power? Isn't she too vulnerable to grandstanding legislators and tough-talking military men? The Manila-born senator says no. For him, the bottom line is not power, it's money.



After the latest coup attempt against President Aquino, Filipinos demonstrate against the climate of violence in politics.

Senators ask testimony of Caltex head

THE Senate committee on finance has invited Caltex president Francis Ablan to confirm or deny the information given by Sen. Ernesto Maceda that oil firms are not in a hurry to get the P5 billion reimbursement for their crude oil purchases when the committee meets this Wednesday.

Sen. Neptali Gonzales, committee chairman, said the committee should be apprised of the position of the oil firms so that it can decide on what will be done with the bill creating the oil standby fund. The bill aims to raise P7 billion to be used in reimbursing the fluctuating price differences in crude oil imports of oil companies.

The higher price differences were supposed to be covered by the Oil Price Stabilisation Fund (OPSF), a fund generated from the sale of oil products to the consumers.

Approval of the oil standby fund was being rushed by the Senate last week when Maceda opposed it, saying that there were pending tax claims against the oil companies which should be settled first before the reimbursements are made.

During discussion of the bill, it was hinted that certain members of the Congress were promised amounts for their efforts in passing the bill. (PNA)

Drought regions

LUZON: The drought that affected four regions in Luzon and Mindanao has resulted in an estimated loss of P1.1 billion in terms of damaged agricultural crops in Regions II, III, IV, VI, and IX.

Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, concurrent chairman of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), in a report to President Aquino also said that at least 152,910.73 hectares of agricultural land were parched by the drought.

He said that in Cagayan Valley, 63,228 hectares of farm land were affected by the drought. In Region 3, 26,188 hectares of land planted to various crops and unplanted areas in 31 municipalities were hit by the dry spell.

The NPAs

THERE has always been the group of people who have made money in Philippine history. These are the people who have gained prominence in many fields such as traders, captains of industries, bankers, professionals as well as artists. These people somehow help the country in their fields of expertise.

In the early years of the Philippines, the Spanish era brought such families as the Guerreros of Ermita, the De los Reyes of Tondo, the Katibagans of Batangas, the Gabaldons of Nueva Ecija, the De Leonos of Pampanga and Bulacan.

The American regime brought the sugar industry and so the sugar barons came forward.

But today, there are the new breed of people. They are called the New People Around or the NPAs. They are the group who finally made it in the field of trade, commerce, industries, etc.

And with progress, there the IN people of yesterday, and the IN people of today. And the race to show which is better is on.

The old families, perhaps due to their prominence in history have been exposed to the inner things in life. Such is the case that the pains of growing up is not so pronounced as to proving to this world that they have arrived. And so is the new order in the country.

To the NPAs there are so many things that would matter. A flashy house in a post subdivision, a fleet of expensive cars, the signature wardrobe, and the big and outlandish jewellery. They have to be seen in the 5-star hotels and expensive restaurants.

In contrast, the old families, perhaps, because they have that special kind of security would rather stay in the sidelines. This would mean staying in a simple, cozy but elegant apartment adorned by heirloom antique pieces. They keep a toned down household with a cook, a housekeeper and laundry woman, just enough to keep the apartment clean.

While the NPAs would rather entertain in expensive restaurants, the yesterday's family would rather serve homecooked food in the confines of their home, where food are served in their bone china, sterling silver and full lead crystals. That is elegant living!

Take the case of this Mrs. Matrona. They made their pile in government construction during the Marcos regime. They have homes all over the world, in Rome, in Hong Kong, in 700 Park Avenue and in Galleries in San Francisco. Because they are not adept at the art of gracious living, they have to hire an interior designer who is also well-known as a landscape contractor. In her apartment at the Galleries in San Francisco, one can just imagine the houseware section of Rustan's, where crystals are all over the place.

Then one day, a friend invited the Buddha bring good luck. So a trip to Thailand was made. She brought some 80 Buddhas that even the comforts of the toilet and bath have them.

In her house in Malaysia, she took the penthouse. The bathroom was so designed that whenever Mrs. Matrona takes a bath there is the semblance of Venus coming out of the sea. The bathroom is glass encased with the sea as the background.

Going back to her apartment in San Francisco, the furniture were imported from Vietnam. Of course, nothing but the best for Mrs. Matrona. So she bought a palace in Vietnam, shipped all the furniture loading them in the family owned shipping lines.

The excess is so overwhelming that the Filipino people suffer for every centavo that has been spent in these fabulous homes. Every Filipino has his share of investments. The houses or their pied de terre were bought by the money which has been stashed away from foreign loans that we now have to pay.

Another person included in the NPA is a lady living in Urdaneta village. To show a friend that they have finally arrived, she borrowed Oriental carpets to put affluence to her party. These carpets were spread all over her garden.

But another Ms has a different story. Recently, Ms gave a party in her mountain view home. Her home is described as fabulous. One night, she gave a party. The only problem was that, she knew nobody in the so called cream of society. She borrowed the guest lists of another person. The funny thing is that during the party, the guests did not know their hosts.

Perhaps, lessons on protocol, the etiquettes and manners should be taught. At least, to reduce the embarrassment to the prospective New People Around.

8-14 years for rape-slay: A farmer has been sentenced to eight to 14 years imprisonment for raping and killing a 38-year-old domestic helper in Pamplona, Negros Oriental two years ago.

Convicted of rape with homicide by Judge Jesus Magno of the regional trial court (RTC) Branch 31 was Jufone Candao of Pamplona. Candao was found guilty of raping and killing Cirila Deniega on Feb. 3, 1985 in Barangay Calicanan, Pamplona.

The court ordered him to indemnify the heirs of the victim P30,000 and to pay the cost of litigation.

San Miguel fans worried

SAN MIGUEL fans are worried. "Tagild yata," I overheard an apparently staunch San Miguel rooster say. "Mukhang mahinirapan ang team natin ngayong mag-champion."

Mon, who manages a bank at the Plaza in Cainta, Rizal, typifies the Beerman supporter who is apprehensive about the falling fortunes of his team.

No. San Miguel isn't doing that bad. But frankly, it isn't really doing that good either. Only last year, and even two or three years ago, it would have been unthinkable to have San Miguel occupying the position it is occupying at present. Nobody but nobody would have thought of San Miguel in a seat other than the driver's seat. But some other teams are doing the leading these days.

"Huwag kang mag-alala, pare ko," Mon's friend, Boy, a business writer from a leading daily newspaper, said. "Pagkahababa naman daw ng prussiyon, sa simbahan din ang tuloy. Tingnan mo, sa dulo't dulo, San Miguel pa rin ang magcha-champion."

Mon was not easily convinced. "Pag hindi sila nag-pick up kaagad, mahinirapan sila." That same sentiment is shared by equally nervous San Miguel roosters all over town.

"Alam mo naman, pare, fan ako ni Samboy," Mon continued. "Isa pa, gusto kong mag-MVP si Fernandez. Ano na lang ang mangyayari pag di nakapasok sa finals ang San Miguel?"

Boy shrugged his shoulders. "Wala sa akin, pare. It's still too early to talk. Tatala, napagtatatala sa ang Alaska. Baka mag-iba pa ang mga placements sa kinatagalaan."

Other San Miguel fans are restless. "Can Norman Black be replaced as import?" a young boy named Ryan — himself an aspiring basketball player — asked. "Kasi I think he's still not 100 per cent in the game after the death of his father. Parang he's not the Norman Black of old. These days he is a better coach than a player. Sayang. Ang ganda pa naman ng nilalaro ni Fernandez."

Norman Black seems to have lost his sting as a player," says Chat, a would-be immigrant to the US. "I wonder why though. Could it be that he has become so Filipinized that the local players already know how he's going to move?"

"Hindi!" a female fan named Lumming protests. "Magaling pa rin si Norman Black. Temporary slump langito. Babalik din yon."

"May rumor kasi, e," a student named Roby tells his friend. "Di ba may problema daw ang San Miguel at walang gana masyadong maglaro ang mga players? Kasi daw binawasan ang bonus nila this year. E isipin mo naman, naka Grand Slam yan last year. Kung ako rin siguro madi-demoralise ako, e."

The basketball world in fact is buzzing. San Miguel fans are

even looking into the so-called Hector Calma issue. "Balita! Hindi daw happy si Hector Calma," says Cecile, another San Miguel fan, apprehensive about how her favourite team will fare in the next few days.

"Alam mo, malaking kawalan din sa San Miguel," Elaine Reyes, Nakakababangin ng yung wala siya doon: Mahirapang i-explain, e. Basta madoon, butts in. Another San Miguel supporter.

There are other speculations — picked up from ladies' room cantenas, phone conversations even weekend beach outings. Why is San Miguel having a hard time setting the pace this time? Could there be internal problems? Or has the law of averages simply caught up with them?

"Nothing lasts forever," says teen-aged boy named Jazz. "San Miguel has been dominating the league since 1987. It reached its peak last year when they won the Grand Slam. It's just undergoing an expected slump. After what they have accomplished, it will be a real tough act to follow."

"It's very hard for a team to sustain its level of motivation," says Andy, another San Miguel fan. "Last year, San Miguel had a battle cry — the Grand Slam. Now what are they aspiring for? Just another win? No matter what you say, the motivation factor has a lot of say. Plus there's the fact that the team has somehow changed its composition. Obvious or not, that has brought about profound changes in the team."

Well, you heard it from the horses' mouths and San Miguel fans need not grieve this early. For one, it isn't over till it's over. For another, to scale the heights one must sometimes plumb the depths for a better perspective. The Eye of the Tiger, remember? San Miguel must feel hungry once again. That is the biggest motivating factor of all.

And speaking of fans, we made an informal survey of personalities and which team makes their hearts go thump. Read this list and see which celebrity matches your taste.

Sharon Cuneta — Purefoods
Rowell Santiago — San Miguel
Richard Gomez — San Miguel
Gary Valenciano — San Miguel
Janice de Belen — Andy
Bessie Padilla — Shell
Ate Siena (Baitot) — Alaska
Raymond Lauchengco — Ango
Dawn Zulueta — Ango
Mon "Cesar Asar" Lee — San Miguel
Gretchen Barretto — Pop Cola
Sara Jane Paez — Shell
Aga Muhlach — Ango
Pops & Martin — Ango
Col Templo — Shell
Pres. Corason Aquino — Purefoods



Is the trouble with Hector Calma all over?

VARIETY

Cosby's real-life brood are a credit to him — except...

FUNNYMAN Bill Cosby — mega-rich from his top-rated TV series about a happy, loving dad — has a far from perfect relationship with his real-life family.

He has cut off his 23-year-old daughter Errin for eloping with a man almost twice her age. Errin was on honeymoon in Puerto Rico with 39-year-old artist Edward Ruiz three weeks after they met.

It was the last straw for Cosby, author of a best-selling book about fatherhood.

For college drop-out Errin was an alcoholic at 14 and on cocaine at 18.

Cosby, 53, rated the second-highest paid entertainer in America, told her even before she met Ruiz that she was not welcome at the family home.

"She is not a person to be trusted," he said. "She has never held down a job, never kept an apartment for more than six months. She uses her boyfriends. Developmentally, she's still around 11 years old."

In the end, he says, he became convinced nothing could help her but "tough love". He said, "You think you're not a good parent because you don't answer the call but you can't let a kid use you."

But Errin claims Cosby is responsible for her addiction problems. "I wanted to be close to Dad but he was always involved with work and running his own life," she said.

"We hardly saw him when he was on the road, and when I did I was intimidated."

"My father was the rich, famous and powerful Bill Cosby, one of the most important men in American entertainment. It was awesome."

And the aspiring actress, who was spending \$130 a day on cocaine at one stage, went on: "I can't believe how Dad managed to go on with his show every week, portraying America's favourite father while having a daughter like me causing so much trouble and pain."



Bill Cosby with his screen wife, played by Phyllicia Rashad, in 'The Cosby Show'.

Errin — the rebel who's ruining his cosy image

Cosby's other four children seem to be behaving more like the three daughters and son of his TV family. Eldest daughter Erika, 24, is studying for a graduate degree in art and son Ennis, 20, is at college.

His youngest daughters, Ensa, 16, and Evin, 13, are doing well at school and intend to go to college, too.

They are, says Cosby, "five children with an automatic support system who receive encouragement. Errin seems to be the only one who is really selfish and refuses to take responsibility for herself."

Cosby had his own family in mind when The Cosby Show first went out in America in 1984.

Friends say his screen daughter Vanessa was to be a shy but bright imp, a mischiefmaker always getting the rest of the family into trouble, just like Errin.

His real children have learned to recognise a certain light that comes into his eyes after a particularly boisterous exchange. "Don't use that, Dad," they plead. "We'll get laughed out of school." But Errin's problems have become a laughing matter.

If she resented the time her father put into career-building, she must know that it's because of his tough route to the top.

He must be conscious of the contrast between the lifestyle Cosby has brought his offspring — including five homes and a private jet — and his own early childhood.

He was only 11 when his father walked out of their home in the black ghetto area of Philadelphia, leaving it to him to help his mother bring up his two younger brothers.

He would get up at daybreak to sell fruit or shine shoes before school for a few extra dimes to help out.

After school he had to babysit brothers Russell and Robert while his mother Anna went out to work as a maid. He did the housework and cooked meals for them — and became the class clown as part of his survival strategy.

His fifth-grade teacher told him: "In the classroom there is one comedian and it is I. If you want to be one, grow up, get your own stage and get paid for it." Seldom has a teacher's advice been so thoroughly heeded.

First, though, he had to get so far behind with his studies that he decided to drop out and learn a trade. Apprentice shoemaking soon proved itself to have been a wrong turning.

He signed up for four years of service in the Navy — and saw a lot of Virginia and Maryland! But he used the time to resume his schooling.

After his Navy stint he got an athletics scholarship to Temple

University (where he majored in physical education) and worked as a part-time bartender to keep himself. Being funny topped up his tips.

And in the university winter break, he went to New York's Greenwich Village, mecca of young comics. When he immediately got a spot at the Gaslight Club, he decided to drop out of education again to entertain. Financially, it was to prove a smart move.

He had a winning formula. Being black, he could get away with making fun of the racial situation in America.

But he was never blue. And his insistency on clean humour is an essential ingredient of The Cosby Show. Without this it could not have had the mass appeal it needed to make the top of the ratings.

By 1987 the boy who hated Christmas — because he did not have a stocking to hang up — had become the highest-paid entertainer in America, earning \$50 million — plus over the previous two years. The money bible, Forbes magazine, was tipping him to be the first entertainer to become a billionaire.

He might have since been overtaken in the league table by Michael Jackson but he is still seriously rich. Last year he is reckoned to have put away another \$70 million while a poll of viewers moved his show to first place as their all-time favourite, ahead of M*A*S*H and Star Trek.

As a comedian, Cosby has recorded 22 albums which have sold 12 million copies around the world. And it was while he was still working as a club comedian that he got his big break into TV. He was picked to co-star with Robert Culp in *I Spy* in the mid-sixties.

It was the first time a black actor had equal billing with a white man on an American TV series. And he has admitted Culp helped him learn his craft.

Culp says if he had not helped Cosby with acting lessons, the comic would have been axed

from the show. He has said: "Bill was not much of an actor when I first met him and he struck me as the angriest man alive. He had this tremendous chip on his shoulder and as a dramatic actor he wasn't out of kindergarten."

I Spy, which still has a cult following, went out for only three years but Cosby must have been a fast learner. He and Culp were nominated for Emmy awards three times — and Cosby won three times!

But not everyone was pleased to see a black actor finally making it to equal billing. Hate mail poured into the studio and southern rednecks refused to watch a show with a black hero.

Cosby has made films, too. He was in *California Suite* with Jane Fonda and Michael Caine and with Sidney Poitier in *Let's Do It Again* and *A Piece of the Action*.

But his most recent movie, *Leonard Part VI*, was a disaster. The buzz in Hollywood was that he tried to offer Columbia £12 million not to release it.

One of Cosby's biggest sources of income over the years has been advertising. Money first started to roll in for him 12 years ago when he signed up for a jelly commercial.

He went on to become a household face for a range of products from frozen pudding to Texas Instruments home computers and Coca-Cola.

When Kodak wanted him to do a series of commercials and to pose for photographs to be displayed at processing centres and drug stores around America, it cost them a million dollars a day for his labour!

Company spokesman Hand Kasker explained why they were prepared to snap him up even at that fee. "We signed him because there is no better-known figure in the States than Bill Cosby."

He may have priced himself out of a Disney deal, though. He was making \$100 an advertisement for a family day out there in which his TV wife, son and daughter appeared arm-in-arm with Mickey Mouse.



The Huddles: Bill's screen family in the hit TV series 'The Cosby Show'.

Rajneesh cult lives on after Bhagwan's death

Osho dialogue continues

POONA, India, (Reuters). Their god is dead, but followers of Bhagwan Rajneesh still flock to his commune in western India in pursuit of a lifestyle preached by a man who was called both sex guru and enlightened master.

Clad in maroon robes, disciples, or sanyasins, of the Bhagwan, which means god in Hindi, guard the imposing gates of the sprawling Osho Commune, International in Poona, near Bombay.

"We need an AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) certificate before you can enter. But don't worry, we can fix that," says Rajneesh sanyasin Ma Pragna.

Pragna, who like other disciples was given a new name at an initiation ceremony, escorts a visitor to a commune clinic where a doctor hugs and kisses a patient while treating her.

"He (Rajneesh) said sex was a natural phenomenon. People hug and kiss all the time here. Sometimes it's physical sex, or pure love. It's no big deal, but people labelled him a sex guru," said Pragna, an Indian.

The commune, or ashram, houses 7,000 people from all parts of the world at any given time.

Two are from the Soviet Union. One said she was from Lishichansk in the Ukraine. Her translator is Ma Jivan Mada, an architect who left Soviet Armenia in 1976 for Canada.

"I see true communism here in this commune where there is no suppression of the individual," Mada said.

Rajneesh's views on the ideal commune are practised at the ashram, where he started the sect in 1974 and provoked people with irreverent attacks on religious figures and politicians.

Rumours of sexual orgies and drug-taking grew as his commune swelled with European and American youths who came east on the hippie trail. Fuelled the rumours were Rajneesh's views that marriage was an outdated concept and that established religions glorified suffering and made man feel guilty if he pursued material luxuries. He had 93 Rolls Royces and masses of jewels.

"In the new world to which I have dedicated my whole life, there should be no marriage, only lovers. Whether one is man or woman, everybody needs change at least once in a while," said Rajneesh in one lecture.

A German photographer visiting the ashram said Rajneesh attracted disciples by evolving a philoso-

phy that propagated a mix of Eastern spiritual values and Western material luxuries.

"Hippies died by the time Rajneesh came about and youths were searching for an alternative that could appeal to their intellect more," the photographer said.

Every evening comes a major event of the commune's day, a Rajneesh discourse.

At the gates of the commune, sanyasins stand each other to ensure no one is wearing perfume, a practice started after Rajneesh developed an allergy to it and which has been continued to keep his image alive.

Sanyasins sit swaying to the rhythm of music, thrumming music from Western and Indian musicians under the glare of surrealistic lighting.

"Osho" they roar together at each discourse.

Then a film screen drops. Rajneesh fills it with a two-hour discourse laced with wit and trick photography that makes it appear he is actually engaging the audience in a dialogue.

Sanyasins said there would be no successor to Rajneesh, who died last January at the age of 58, but a group of 21 he picked would supervise the propagation of his thoughts and the running of centres world-wide.



Bill in his very early days when he worked as a stand-up comic.

Eisenhower's birth centennial

Ike — 'greatest hero of the greatest war'

WASHINGTON, (UPI). Former US President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who led the Allied armies to victory over Nazi Germany in World War II, was honoured a century after his birth at a joint session of Congress last week, as "The greatest hero of the greatest war in history."

"For millions the world over who still like Ike, he remains a reassuring symbol of the extraordinary qualities that lie within seemingly ordinary people," said Senate Republican Leader Robert Dole of Kansas.

"A century after his birth, we recognize the man from Abilene is a symbol of democratic opportunity in a world where old oppressions are crumbling like the wall that once artificially divided East from West," said Dole, chairman of the Eisenhower Centennial Commission.

"No man did more to rid our planet of the Nazi scourge. No one gave more in the cold war against human enslavement. And no one deserves more gratitude from a world waking up to its potential."

The nearly two-hour tribute in the house chamber to the man known as Ike was part of a year-long celebration marking the centennial of Eisenhower's birth on Oct 14, 1890, in Denison, Texas, from which his family moved to his childhood home in Abilene, Kansas, in 1892.

Eisenhower, who rose from poverty to become a West Point graduate and Supreme Allied Commander of the Forces that began liberating Europe from Nazi tyranny on D-Day, June 6, 1944, was elected the nation's 34th president as a Republican in 1952 and again in 1956.

He died on March 28, 1969, at age 78.

Eisenhower family members, including grandson David Eisenhower and his wife, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, listed in the House chamber to the tributes and to music performed by a military band and glee club.

Walter Cronkite, the former World War II correspondent and longtime CBS news anchorman, recalled the war years.

"Dwight David Eisenhower was the greatest hero of the greatest war in history," said Cronkite, who interviewed Eisenhower for his television memoirs.

"He was chosen, at least in part, because he possessed the magic magnetism that could draw together in common cause those of differing opinions and clashing egos," Cronkite said. "In sort, he was a leader."

John Eisenhower, looking remarkably like his dad, said "I believe he'd like to be remembered simply as the good soldier."

"Beneath the well known grin, he was a serious, purposeful executive. He made no pretense at intellectual brilliance but he was contemplative and literate."



A procession of elephants on the dam over Kaptal Lake in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Tourist paradise

Monuments, mountains, beaches, lakes, parks, rivers and ponds — natural beauty abounds in Bangladesh providing ample opportunities for such sports as angling, water-skiing, cruising, hiking, rowing, surfing, yachting and sun-bathing, writes K.M. Shahriar.

The land of dreams has been gifted with the beauties of nature and provides plenty of inspiration to poets and musicians. Unforgettable are memories of miles and miles of paddy fields and forests, the lotus blossoms in ponds, sunsets and picturesque facades spread across the land.

Some places of interest include the Balda Garden; Ramna Green, a recreation centre; Bahadur Shah Park, a memorial to heroes who sacrificed their lives in the first war of independence in Bengal in 1857;

National Art Gallery, Lalbagh Fort, built by Prince Mohammad Azam in 1860 during the time of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb; Zoological Garden in Mirpur, 16 kms northwest of Dhaka; Sonargom, 29 kms from Dhaka, is one of the oldest capitals of the then Bengal during the British Raj; Chittagong, the picturesque hinterland and a busy seaport. And 95 miles from Chittagong is Cox's Bazar, with the world's largest stretch of beach (75 miles), softly sloping into the waters of Bay of Bengal. Fascinating are its deep forest reserves and golden miles.

Whether you want to take a holiday in the hills or relaxing on the seashore, the country has it all. And tourists are welcomed by warm, friendly, hospitable people.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALAN BRUCKHEIM

Eye infection is difficult to treat

QUESTION: Would you kindly discuss in your column an infection of the eyelids called "blepharitis". The treatment and cure, and also its prevention, would be most welcome information.

ANSWER: As you indicated blepharitis (from the Greek "blepharon" meaning "eyelid") is an inflammation of the eyelid margins that produces redness and thickening, as well as the formation of crusts and scales or shallow ulcers. There are two types. Ulcerative blepharitis is the more serious of the two. It's caused by a bacterial infection, usually a staphylococcus, and can result in the loss of eyelashes and scarring, as well as occasional infections of the cornea. The other type, non-ulcerative blepharitis has a less evident cause, although it may be of an allergic origin or associated with a skin condition such as seborrhea of the face and scalp.

You know when you have it since it produces an itchy "foreign body in the eye" sensation. The eyelids become swollen and red, and bright light may cause pain and tearing (photophobia). During the night, crusts form that glue the eyelids together. When the crusts and scales in the ulcerative type are washed away, they leave a bleeding surface to contend with.

Both types of blepharitis are difficult to treat and will recur frequently after they have been treated and apparently cured. Warm compresses may be needed to wash away the secretions before applying local antibiotics creams and drops. Erythromycin or bacitracin are usually effective in treating the infection, and should be used three times a day, until the symptoms improve. When severe irritation occurs, cortisone-like medications may be used in addition to antibiotics for short periods of time. If seborrhea is one of the possible causes, it too must be treated.

Question: My married daughter is going to have surgery soon, hopefully to remove the causes of a weakening and

softening of the eye wall, and she is asking about the possibility of getting it. She doesn't eat, and they are doing nothing to build her up. In my day they gave you a transfusion of blood to take care of the amounts you lost during surgery, but the hasn't even had that help. Can you tell me if you think her care is correct?

Answer: Since you have omitted many details of her problem and just what care is taking place, I'm not able to comment on all the treatments that may be going on. However, your call for a blood transfusion does deserve some explanation which may help restore your confidence in your daughter's physicians and surgeons. Their certainly not like the old days, for evidence of blood loss surgery have greatly reduced the amount of blood lost during most operations. No longer is it necessary to administer blood as a precaution against reduced blood volume. Nor is blood indicated to build up a person's reserves as though it were some type of nutritional supplement.

With all the possibilities of reactions to blood transfusions, physicians have become more and more concerned about the circumstances in which blood is given. Some febrile and allergic reactions can occur in as little as one or two units transfused, and the possibility of hepatitis reactions due to incompatibility are very real. Blood transfusions are not used as preventive measures. In addition to the possibility of hepatitis, there is a remote, but possible chance of an AIDS infection (about one in 100,000-1 million units of blood). Caution is the new name in transfusion indications.

Dr. Alan Bruckheim welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot respond to each, he will attempt to will answer those of general interest in his column. Write Dr. Bruckheim in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 100, Orlando, Fla. 32802-0119.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

The week in business

Personal income of US workers surges

Woes on Wall Street continue

NEW YORK, March 31, (UPI): Woes on Wall Street continued with one major brokerage filing for bankruptcy protection, another setting the stage for hundreds of layoffs and a third announcing a restructuring intended to bolster its balance sheet.

Thomson McKinnon Securities Inc., the nation's ninth-largest brokerage that suffered devastating losses in its retail brokerage business after the 1987 stock market crash, Wednesday filed for bankruptcy protection.

One analyst said Thomson's bankruptcy filing appeared to be part of a trend on Wall Street, which has been jolted by Drexel Burnham Lambert Group Inc.'s collapse and layoffs at

Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. and Merrill Lynch and Co.

"The filing was long anticipated and marks the beginning of the final stage in the liquidation of the brokerage firm commenced last fall," Thomson said.

Thomson listed \$89 million in total assets and \$139 million in total liabilities.

Meanwhile, Prudential-Bache Securities Inc., the nation's fourth-largest securities firm, indicated it would eliminate several hundred jobs in the coming months, most likely in the investment banking area.

The expected cutbacks at the firm reflect its attempt to steer away from being a full-service brokerage and

eliminate businesses with shrinking returns.

A recapitalisation plan was announced Thursday by Kidder, Peabody Group Inc. where by its parent, General Electric Co. will inject \$550 million into the firm.

Kidder will sell its portfolio of high-yield, high-risk junk bonds and temporary bridge loans to GE Capital Corp., another GE Unit. In turn Kidder will return \$200 million to GE Financial Services, the GE Entity that controls both Kidder and GE Capital.

On the international front, stock prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange finished the last trading day of fiscal year 1989 on a down note as investors

feared profit taking from institutional investors.

Friday was the last trading day of Japan's fiscal 1989, and stock holdings are valued on the basis of the day's closing prices. The new fiscal year begins Sunday.

After posting its second-largest one-day gain ever Monday, the Tokyo market retreated throughout the remainder of the week to wipe out the 1468.33-point surge.

Domestically, factory orders rebounded by 1.8 per cent in February, boosted by increased demand for automobiles, defence items and communications gear, the Commerce Department said Friday.

Overall transportation orders were up by 10.4 per cent last month after

topping by 29.4 per cent in January. The personal income of American workers increased by 0.9 per cent in February and the rate of personal savings was up substantially but spending slowed, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

Some private analysts said that it appears there is widespread concern about the state of the sluggish US economy.

The \$40.6 billion increase in personal income brings the monthly total to \$4.6 trillion, the Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said. The revised January total was just shy of the \$4.6

trillion mark.

Another government report Wednesday showed that after-tax profits of American corporations crept up by 2.8 per cent or \$4.3 billion in the fourth quarter of 1989 but fell by 4.7 per cent or \$8 billion for the year.

"I think what we've learned is a slow-growth economy is one where business profits take the hit," said Robert Dederick, chief economist for Northern Trust in Chicago.

Also Wednesday, the Commerce Department said nationwide sales of new single-family homes edged up 3.1 per cent in February, with a huge gain in the south offsetting a big plunge in the northeast.

Companies invited to develop oilfields

HOUSTON, Texas, March 31, (AP): Energy officials from the Soviet Union have invited Western companies to help develop five troublesome oil and gas areas in their country.

Six top national and local Soviet energy officials outlined the fields they hope to develop with Western assistance during a seminar held in conjunction with Professional Geophysics Inc. About 160 oil company representatives attended the Tuesday meeting.

Professional Geophysics officials said it is the first time that the Soviets have offered definite areas for development by Western companies. The offer is being made through Mdses, a joint venture between the Soviets and Professional Geophysics.

Four areas in the western Siberian basin the Soviets want to develop are the Russian hydrocarbon pool, the Bakhtovsk area, the Vanyegansk area and the Krasnoyarsk area. Those areas are estimated to hold reserves of 13 billion barrels of oil.

The Soviets also are inviting Western companies into the Bashkir region of the Volga-Urals basin, which has deep, undiscovered oil and gas potential.

"We have outlined programmes for the near future, but of course we can extend this programme," said Aklim K. Moushametdzanov, deputy minister of the Soviet Oil and Gas Industry.

Development of the areas won't be easy, and that is one of the main reasons the Soviets are looking for Western help, said Kindel P. McNeill, vice-president of Professional Geophysics.

Problems include high paraffin content, large amounts of hydrogen sulphide under high pressure, low-gravity oil and thick layers of permafrost, McNeill said.

Moushametdzanov said the Soviets have experts who know how to attack the problems, but they don't have sufficient technology and equipment to do it by themselves.

Although the Soviets have moved at a slow pace in recent negotiations with other US companies, they have set a speedy timetable for projects in the five areas described Tuesday. Joint venture partners should be selected by fall, and work could begin some time after Jan. 1, according to information distributed at the seminar.

Soviet and Professional Geophysics officials said the terms will be worked out with each partnership. But a booklet handout described the parameters of prospective joint ventures stated that the "share of the Soviet side in the authorised fund of a joint venture shall comprise not less than 51 per cent."

The lifting costs of reserves in the targeted areas will be in the vicinity of \$7 to 8 a barrel, said Professional Geophysics president Tom Russell.

Third World calls for EEC help

SUVA, Fiji, March 31, (Reuters): The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of developing nations on Wednesday called for European Economic Community help to relaunch failed international commodity agreements.

"Every means should be found in order to revitalise the commodity agreements," Surinam's Finance Minister William Grep told ministers from the two groups, meeting for the first time since they signed the Lome IV trade convention last December.

The pact is named after the capital of Togo, the West African country where it was signed.

The international coffee agreement, which sought to stabilise prices through production quotas, collapsed in 1989.

A similar pact between cocoa producer and consumer countries tried to use buffer stocks to support prices, but supplies when prices fell and selling when they rose again. It too foundered last year and is now sitting on a 250,000 tonne stockpile.

Since then prices of the two commodities have crashed by some 30 per cent, crippling the economies of ACP countries which rely on them almost exclusively for their export revenues.

During the meeting, the EEC assured the ACP it would support its efforts to renew the two agreements. EEC diplomats said.

But, reflecting a growing tendency towards liberalisation in world trade, the EEC tended to reject buffer stocks and other interventionist strategies, they said.

Instead it advocated so-called second window measures, in areas such as research and development and commercialisation, to make ACP producers more competitive.

European finance ministers meet

Plans to form monetary union

GALWAY, Ireland, March 31, (AP): European finance ministers gathered today for fresh discussions on their ambitious plans to form a monetary union with an American-style central bank and a common currency.

The ministers, representing the dozen nations of the European Economic Community, were likely to focus most of their day-long talks on proposals for quickly putting together an economic and monetary merger.

No decisions were expected from the informal meeting at Ashford Castle, a luxury hotel in the village of Cong on Lough Corrib in Western Ireland.

The ministers' talks are part of a series that community officials will hold in the coming months to discuss the trading bloc's future shape.

French President Francois Mitterrand, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and others have urged the community to form even closer links in response to the political upheavals in Eastern Europe.

They argue the community must be strengthened to give badly needed support to the emerging democracies on the



Helmut Kohl

eastern half of the continent.

Moreover, they want to make sure that East Germany and its powerhouse economy remain firmly anchored in the community. They fear it will be distracted by the rush to a united Germany.

As a result, some of the leaders have been pressing for a quick economic and monetary merger and a political union of the 12 nations in the coming years.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has opposed such radical moves, fearing a loss of sovereignty to new European institutions.

At today's talks, the finance

ministers will take a look at a proposal drawn up by the community's executive body for an independent banking system, patterned after the US Federal Reserve and the West German Bundesbank.

In a recent interview, Henning Christophersen, vice-president of the trading bloc, said the banking system could be set up in 1993 under an accelerated timetable for economic and monetary union.

The economic merger of the dozen nations, he said, "is now going to be part of the European architecture."

"It is not only an ambition for some governments or for the commission (the community's executive body)," he said.

The community is considering a three-stage blueprint for economic integration that recommends creation of a European system of central banks, nicknamed Eurofed, and use of the ECU — the European Currency Unit — as the joint currency.

The first stage of the plan will go into effect on July 1 when governments co-ordinate more closely their economic and monetary policies. Capital and

exchange controls will be abolished so money can move freely among the nations.

The plan calls for all currencies to be linked in the exchange rate mechanism of the European monetary system, which keeps their values roughly steady within certain bands. The currencies of Britain, Portugal and Greece do not belong.

Thatcher has promised to enter the pound into the mechanism but has given no date.

The blueprint's second phase would be marked by introduction of Eurofed, which would co-ordinate monetary policy among the nations. Each now has separate central bank to map monetary strategy.

The new system would be controlled by a council made up of the 12 central bank governors and a smaller group of directors. Directors would be appointed for long terms.

In the final phase, the joint currency would be phased in. Community leaders agreed late last year to open a special conference next December to revise their founding treaty of Rome to set up new monetary institutions.

US gives aid to Turkey

Minister seeks to boost growth

ANKARA, March 31, (Reuters): The United States signed an agreement here to transfer \$14.3 million in economic support funds to Turkey, the US embassy said on Thursday.

The funds, part of a larger programme of US aid to Turkey, will be used for balance of payment support, a statement said.

Turkey, the third largest recipient of US security assistance, has also received \$497.85 million in foreign military financing for 1990, it said.

The US government has deducted a small amount from all assistance programmes, including Turkey's, to finance President George Bush's war against drugs. No reduction ratio was given.

The statement said Turkey had set a positive example for other debtor countries with its external debt management and had achieved a current account surplus for two straight years after a long-existing deficit problem.

Turkey's current account balance, expected to yield a surplus of some \$1 billion in 1989, gave a record \$1.5 billion surplus in 1988 — the first surplus since 1973.

The country's overall balance of payments gave a \$2.8 billion surplus last year, compared to surplus of \$285 million in 1988 and \$993 million in 1987.

Motherland won 36 per cent of the vote in November 1987. Its support has been between 12 and 15 per cent for most of the past year, mainly because of inflation which stood at an annual 59 per cent in February.

Pakdemirli, an Ozal protégé regarded by Western bankers as one of the most able men in the cabinet, was one of four ministers handling economic policy.

He resigned after criticising government policy. Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz quit for similar reasons last month.

"We must give new messages to the nation. We must display the strength of the state and increase the confidence of citizens," Pakdemirli told Motherland deputies on Tuesday.

He clashed publicly with State Minister Gunay Taner this month when Taner said annual inflation this year would be halted down to around 30 per cent.

"It is not realistic. We have stated in the budget that we expect annual inflation this year would be bailed down to around 30 per cent."

"It is not realistic. We have stated in the budget that we expect annual inflation of around 42 per cent. Projections show it will be around 54 per cent," Pakdemirli told other deputies.

"We should not contradict but rather try to answer the expectations of the nation," he added.

Political sources said Akbulut, a bland former parliamentary speaker chosen by Ozal to lead the party last November, was likely to name one person as economic "supremo."

Possible candidates include State Ministers Kemal Akkaya and Husnu Dogan, Justice Minister Oltan Sungurlu and former Economic State Minister Yusuf Ozal, the president's brother, they said.

Opposition parties have been pressing for an early general election but political commentators believe the government will carry on with its 281 seats on the 450-seat parliament.

"I think they will hold on. All of this is an alarm signal for the government which I believe Akbulut will take into consideration," Sami Kohen, a commentator for the liberal daily Milliyet, told Reuters.

Meanwhile, Adnan Kahveci, a Western-educated technocrat, took over as Turkey's finance minister yesterday, seeking to boost economic growth to improve the ruling party's dismal electoral fortunes.

"If we cannot push the real growth rate to over four per cent we cannot expect to get votes," he told businessmen shortly before his appointment to replace Ekrem Pakdemirli, who resigned on Wednesday following disagreements over economic policy.

West German firm fined

WASHINGTON, March 31, (UPI): A West German company has been fined 800,000 for illegally passing on to third countries US materials that can be used in nuclear weapons and reactors, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

The company, Degussa A.G., re-exported the materials to Britain, Italy, Czechoslovakia, India and North Korea without approval from US officials, the department's Bureau of Export Administration said.

Between Dec 5, 1984, and Oct 15, 1987, Degussa sent three shipments of US beryllium powder, beryllium lumps and beryllium nitrate from West Germany to India and Britain, those agency said.

It also said that between Sept 15, 1986, and Oct 15, 1987, the company passed shipments of US-origin zirconium to North Korea, Czechoslovakia and India.

The beryllium materials can be used in making or testing nuclear explosives, while zirconium can be used to make uranium rods that fuel nuclear reactors, it said.

Such re-exports of US nuclear materials are strictly controlled both for national security reasons and to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons technology.

Opec to implement Kuwait's proposal

Quota system to be reviewed

KUWAIT, March 31, (Agencies): Opec will implement Kuwait's proposal in cancelling the quota system and eliminate production ceiling in accordance with the changes in the oil market, a Kuwaiti daily said today.

Al-Sayash said that this move needs time before comprehensive implementation.

Kuwait at the beginning of the year suggested cancelling Opec's quota system and returning to free production in line with prospects of an increase in world demand during the coming years to standards that are above Opec's production.

The daily said that Kuwait's point of view was being accepted and understood by Opec members even though the issue was not discussed in the recent Vienna meeting of Opec's pricing committee.

World oil circles described Kuwait's suggestion as "realistic and scientific" because non-Opec oil exporting countries had reached the highest level of production, the daily added.

Free production will not flood the oil market and consequently result in a crisis similar to that in 1982 because major production capacity will be limited to three countries, the daily said without naming them.

Meanwhile, Opec secretary-general Dr Subroto today firmly denied a report featured in an oil industry publication that the organisation's meeting with independent oil producers in Muscat, Oman, last weekend failed to agree to moves to formalise their relationship.

In a telephone interview with Opecna from the US oil state of Alaska, where he is currently on an official visit, Subroto stressed that representatives at the talks did not vote against a motion to establish a permanent joint committee "because there was no such motion put forward to be voted on."

The secretary-general was replying to a report carried in the March 27 issue of the specialist publication "Plan's Oilgram News."

Subroto stressed that technical experts from both Opec and the so-called group of Independent Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (Ipec) were represented at the meeting "at a very high level."

He pointed out that during the talks, which he attended, officials discussed the main issues affecting the interests of all oil producers, "frankly and in such a manner as to enrich their understanding of those issues, especially with regard to maintaining oil market stability, both in the short and long-term."

Subroto added that the delegates agreed to continue to explore "these and other issues at a technical level and to discuss them at future meetings, with a view to identifying areas of commonality of interest."

The secretary-general declared: "It would be presumptuous to expect that such a technical meeting could achieve anything more than this, having regard to the fact that it was not a policy-making body."

He explained that the representatives would have to report the outcome of the meeting to their various governments, with a view to receiving guidance from their ministers for further action to strengthen co-operation between Opec and Ipec.

The Omani meeting was attended by experts from all 13 Opec member countries and officials from Colombia and Mexico from Latin America, Angola and Egypt (Africa), Oman and North Yemen (Middle East), China and Malaysia (Asia), Norway and the Soviet Union (Europe), together with the Canadian province of Alberta and the US state of Alaska.

Jordan starts IMF talks

Bid to clear way for more credit

AMMAN, March 31, (Reuters): Jordan, almost a year into a reform programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund, began talks with IMF officials today on disbursement of the next tranche of a \$77-million standby credit.

"We expect the talks to be very friendly and constructive and to end in approval of the next tranche," a Jordanian official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

He said Jordan would sign in mid-April a long-delayed rescheduling accord with commercial banks grouped in the London Club, paving the way for new loans of up to \$50 million.

Bankers involved in the deal confirmed that prospects for the new money had improved. They said doubts raised mainly by Kuwait-based banks, owed about 25 per cent of Jordan's \$1.1 billion bank debt, seemed to have been surmounted.

All the information we have is that the majority, say 90 or 95 per cent, of the new money is there," the official said.

This month Jordan repaid the last of London Club arrears of \$80 million originally due by the end of 1989, and plans to use any new money partly to cover 1990 interest due to banks.

The London Club steering committee agreed in November the fresh loans would carry interest at 13/16 p.p.m. over Libor to be paid at the end of their three-year term, diplomats said.

Under an accord reached with the IMF in July, Amman will get about \$44 million gross from the fund in 1990, split into four payments, two of which require meeting IMF-set targets. Net receipts will be about \$32.5 million, diplomats said.

IMF technical experts have been here for a week working out detailed performance criteria for the year, now to be discussed with the IMF's Middle East director, Shabou Shaalan.

The review should have been completed in November, but languished while a new government steered an austerity 1990 budget through the freshly elected parliament.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradat said last week differences with the IMF over the projected budget deficit had been settled.

Diplomats said it was not clear what had been agreed concerning the problem of unbudgeted interest payments of about \$250 million due this year to service military debt.

China warns US on trade

BEIJING, March 31, (UPI): A senior Chinese trade official warned today that a move by the US Congress to revoke a preferential trade status for China could backfire and added that US trade with Hong Kong could also be "seriously affected."

Li Lanqing, vice-minister of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, spoke at a news conference during the ongoing session of the National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament.

Li's warning echoed that issued on Wednesday by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who said a US revocation of "most favoured nation" trade status for China would lead to "major retrogression" in relations between Beijing and Washington.

"It is said that some US Senators are considering to suspend or remove most favoured nation treatment granted to China," Li said.

Removal of MFN status would slap tariffs of up to 100 per cent on many Chinese exports to the United States.

Malaysian economy on growth path but problems mount

KUALA LUMPUR, March 31, (Reuters): The Malaysian economy will perform strongly in the early 1990s but a severe lack of skilled manpower and high inflation could curb expansion, economists say.

Weaknesses in the infrastructure are also causing concern and could reduce Malaysia's appeal to foreign manufacturers relocating their operations here, the economists said.

"These problems need to be rectified if our strong growth rates are to be sustained," said Foong Chan Onn, economist with the University of Malaysia.

Since its worst post-war recession in 1985, the Malaysian economy has been on an upturn with Gross Domestic Product growing a real 8.5 per cent in 1989, largely due to big inflows of private investment and buoyant domestic demand.

The central bank's annual report,

released yesterday, predicted GDP growth would slow only slightly to 8.3 per cent this year, but analysts expect growth to be lower.

"The 8.3 per cent growth rate is a shade over-optimistic, and we are working on a figure around 7.6 per cent this year largely due to higher imports," said Sanjoy Chowdhury, senior economist with Merrill Lynch Singapore.

Economists say the Malaysian economy is well placed to continue its expansion at growth rates between six and eight per cent over the next three years.

Private and public sector spending on infrastructure and manufacturing operations will power growth for the next two years. Then exports will take over, buoyed by an expected rise in global demand, the economists say.

But the large inflows of funds into the

financial system and anticipated wage hikes have raised fears about inflation, which the central bank has said may rise to four per cent this year from 2.8 per cent.

"The concern about inflation is justified and we expect it to rise to five per cent this year. The issue is how will the central bank bring down liquidity," said Chowdhury.

In 1986 Malaysia embarked on a bold programme to reduce its dependence on commodities and diversify into manufacturing with the help of foreign investors, who have been enticed by attractive equity rules and cheap labour.

The central bank expects exports of manufactured goods to rise to \$16.3 billion in 1990 from \$13.6 billion in 1989, and central bank officials say these figures show the success of Malaysia's industrialisation programme.

But analysts say the success is limited.

Though manufacturing now contributes more to growth than agriculture, economists say the industrial base remains narrow and centred on foreign-dominated areas such as electronics.

Growth in these areas has been based on cheap labour, and Malaysia needs more skilled labour to boost the development of a broader based manufacturing sector.

"Malaysia needs to re-orientate its education system to ensure it produces more professionals required by the private sector," said one economist.

The government also has to boost infrastructure, especially electricity supply telecommunications and ports, to avoid bottlenecks in expansion plans.

"Malaysia has been quicker on its feet in its plans to boost infrastructure compared to Thailand, but much more needs to be done," said Chowdhury.

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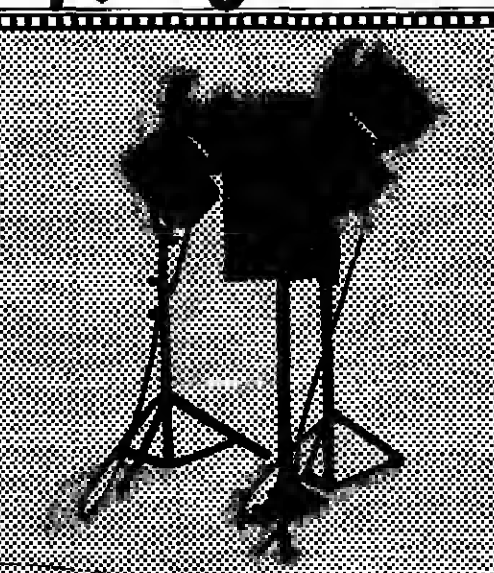
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Europe likely to witness major surge of economic activities

Gulf overseas assets growing, says study

AS we enter the 1990s, three trends that emerged last year are likely to continue. The first concerns the winds of change blowing through Europe that will have a profound impact on the world's economy. While the US and the Pacific countries were the engine of growth in the 1980s, Europe is likely to witness a major surge of economic activities in the coming years. The three historic events, 1992, the economic and political liberalisation of the USSR and Eastern Europe and the strong momentum towards the reunification of Germany, will complement and reinforce one another to bring forth stronger economic growth in continental Europe.

Second, the end of the cold war could mean huge savings from lower defence spending for both the East and the West. This will reduce the US's budget deficit and could bring forth lower dollar bond yields, greater investments and stronger growth in the US in the 1990s, according to GIB monthly

Economic and Financial Report.

Third, there has been a shift in focus from inter-regional relationship (co-ordination of policies between the G-7 countries), towards intra-regional issues. The link that held all currencies more or less together against the dollar in the last 3 years has become far less visible.

A triangular relationship has evolved between the DM bloc countries, the dollar and the yen, whereby a strong DM is not necessarily identical for a weak dollar. Furthermore, the regionalisation of the world economy could dilute the role of the dollar as the key reserve currency, with institutions turning to the mark as their principal reserve currency. Some 21 per cent of world monetary reserves are in DM compared to only 9 per cent in 1975 where the dollar still accounts for 60 per cent of world reserves and the yen for 7.9 per cent.

None of these developments make the task of managing investments in the

volatile globe markets much easier. The challenge facing international investors, including those from the Gulf, is to be able to capitalise on these potentially exploitable long term developments without increasing the risk profile of their investment portfolios.

If there is one over-riding theme of the 1990s, it is that the investment process will be considerably more sophisticated than the previous decade.

Globalisation long talked about, will become a reality as more countries open up to foreign investments and capital barriers fall. While the choices will be harder, there will be more of them from currency to country and from sector to industry. To succeed in the new environment, investors have to think and act globally.

Since the current rise in world stock markets started in 1982, the dollar value of Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices of Far Eastern and Western European stock markets have climbed 754 per cent and 425 per cent

respectively compared to 311 per cent for the US. By taking part in the rapidly growing economies, the investor is likely to increase his return on his global exposure.

Nevertheless, balancing the portfolio among the various instruments available in the international markets is quite a complex task. It needs to take into account not only the prevailing situation in the world financial markets but also the investor's own perception of risk and reward.

Furthermore, it is not advisable to just balance one's portfolio and then forget about it. Today's markets are constantly changing and need to be continuously monitored. A dynamic approach to fund management is required, whereby regular adjustments are made to cope with new developments in the market place.

Gulf investors have been quite active in the international markets since the early oil-boom years. Many high net-

worth individuals, financial and trading institutions as well as government bodies have sizeable overseas investments ranging from bank deposits and fixed income securities to shares, real estate and direct investments in businesses abroad.

The magnitude of this investment is believed to be substantial, albeit difficult to quantify precisely. This is due mainly to the diversity of such investments and the fact that transactions are not recorded systematically.

Furthermore, Gulf investments made through financial intermediaries to London, Zurich, New York or Tokyo (unit trusts, portfolio management etc.) are impossible to identify by their original source.

With the current upturn of Gulf economic activities, the outflow of capital towards the international markets will slow down. Increasingly more funds will be invested in the region, either expanding existing businesses and establishing new ones or benefiting

from the surge in the region's stock and real estate markets.

The improved geo-economic conditions in the region will encourage the gradual repatriation of at least a portion of the sizeable funds invested abroad. However, the projected downward trend in the outflow of capital from the Gulf countries obscures the fact that established investors continue to recycle their wealth abroad by selling one asset and investing in another. Furthermore, even though investment opportunities in the domestic markets have improved recently, the outlets remain limited, and given the high propensity to save in the region there will always be ample surplus funds seeking investments abroad.

Around 64.6 per cent of these assets (\$226 billion) were held in liquid or semi-liquid form, such as bank deposits, gold and foreign reserves with the IMF, government securities and short term investments. The rest were in

longer term placement, such as funds lent to developing countries, credit to non-banks and other investments including equity holding and real estate.

The increase in the value of Gulf countries' overseas assets came despite the fact that certain GCC countries have been liquidating some of their foreign assets to help cover budget and current account deficits. This undoubtedly reflects the increased sophistication of the region's investment policies which took advantage of buoyant equity markets in the last few years.

By mid 1989, an estimated 42 per cent of the GCC foreign assets (\$146 billion) were held in the form of bank deposits in twenty or so industrialised countries and offshore centres, a good part of which was in US dollars. It is these bank deposits that take the 'immediate impact' of fluctuations in current account balances.

(To be continued)

American factory orders rebound

WASHINGTON, March 31. (AP) Orders to US factories for manufactured goods rebounded 1.8 per cent in February but failed to recover entirely from their largest one-month loss in 16 years, the government reported yesterday.

The Commerce Department said orders for both durable and non-durable goods totalled a seasonally adjusted \$231.6 billion after January's 5.5 per cent drop, the steepest since a 7 per cent decline in December 1974.

January's decline was first reported to be 5.4 per cent.

Durable goods ordered rebounded back 2.6 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$120.9 billion after a 10.5 per cent fall in January, the biggest drop in 32 years of record-keeping, which broke the previous record of 9.2 per cent in February 1982 during the last recession.

But the rebound in durable goods orders — expensive items expected to last more than three years — was far less than January's decline and thus failed to regain that month's loss.

The department said durable goods orders were concentrated in transportation equipment, up 10.4 per cent to \$29.9 billion. Transportation orders had led the overall January decline with a drop of 29.4 per cent.

A large increase in motor vehicles and parts and shipbuilding and tanks more than offset a large decline in aircraft and parts, the department said.

Excluding transportation, orders were up 0.6 per cent. In the key category of non-defence capital goods, a barometer of business investment plans, orders fell 6.0 per cent to \$6.0 billion, their second straight decline. Orders were down 13.6 per cent in January.

In addition to orders, the Commerce Department said shipments were up 3.3 per cent to \$234.2 billion following a 1.8 per cent decline in January.

Inventories eased 0.1 per cent to \$373.9 billion after a 0.9 per cent gain the previous month.

Analysts watch inventories closely because if they increase without a corresponding gain in new orders, production cutbacks could occur in the future as factories attempt to get rid of goods stored on shelves and backlogs.

"Inventories have been fluctuating since November following a two-year upward trend," the department said.

Non-durable goods orders were up 0.9 per cent to \$110.7 billion after a 0.6 per cent increase in January. The largest increase were in food and printing and publishing.

India, Belgium agree on trade

NEW DELHI, March 31. (UPI) India and Belgium agreed today to establish a joint commission to boost co-operation in a range of fields, including trade, industrial development and science and technology, the Foreign Ministry said.

The accord setting up the commission was signed by Commerce and Tourism Minister Arun Nehru and Robert Urban, the visiting Belgian minister for foreign trade, it said.

Under the agreement, the commission is to meet once every two years to implement and review co-operation programmes. It is also charged with recommending ways of improving such programmes.

India is suffering a major trade deficit with Belgium, according to statistics for 1985-86, the most recent available.

Wall Street watch

Hot money headed for US markets?

NEW YORK, March 31. (AP) As they look for potential winners in the international investment derby of the early 1990s, some analysts are touting a recent also-ran by the name of the United States.

The idea isn't exactly a novel one, given the sheer size of the US economy and its powerful influence on world politics. But it still represents something of a switch from the trend in recent years, when investment funds in search of the most glamorous growth opportunities often headed for other points around the globe.

Until fairly recently, the most obvious magnet for money was Japan and its Pacific rim neighbours.

Then the rush was on to European markets, encouraged by the toppling of long-time cold war barriers and the prospect of a new economic order in 1992.

If you were in a mood to pick long shots, many experts looked toward businesses in smaller industrialised countries or the Third World.

When big players operating on a global scale contemplated US investments, they most often thought in terms of safety, stability and liquidity rather than a chance at a big score.

US merchandise meant treasury bills, bonds and notes — still regarded as one of the safest high-yielding investments available anywhere — and blue-chip stocks.

In a new decade, however, some observers argue that events may be conspiring to put some glamour back into the image of the US markets on the computer screens of trading rooms around the world.

Japan, for its part, has seen a wrenching decline in its markets

amid worries over high interest rates and even higher price-earnings ratios.

There are signs, as well, that stocks in Western Germany and other European markets may be undergoing at least a temporary setback after soaring on heady expectations there.

"Developments that cast a shadow of doubt over Western Europe could make the United States the ray of sunshine in a world darkened by uncertainty," says Greg Smith, analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities.

"Even if the United States does not particularly clever, but simply continues to be viewed as a place of predictable ongoing opportunity, the US market could become the hot spot later this year — by default."

US stocks staged a modest advance in the past week, closing out a generally inconclusive first quarter of 1990.

US moves to ease computer exports to Moscow

WASHINGTON, March 31. (Reuters) The Defence Department said in a major policy shift that it would no longer block exports of many US computers to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, allowing the decisions to be made solely by the Commerce Department.

With East-West relations improving daily and fears of military technology theft easing, the step follows a January decision by the Bush administration to improve the competitive position of US business abroad.

It is expected to open the gate to a high-tech road worth hundreds of millions of dollars to US firms, especially those that make powerful small computers, which the Pentagon has charged could be used by the Soviet military.

Friday's announcement was seen as a victory for Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher who, pressed by the US electronics industry, wanted relaxed export controls and more control by his department over their approval.

The Pentagon had previously reviewed hundreds of such export requests along with the Commerce Department and the agencies had clashed publicly over whether technology involved might be used by the Soviet military.

Commerce officials said multi-agency export approval often took so much time that American firms lost out on sales to Western European and Japanese firms able to win their nations' approval far quicker.

But the Bush administration's softer approach to exports was recommended in January by a committee of the National Security Council.

"The initiative ... is intended to assist our exporting community and improve the competitive position of US industry in international trade by expediting the licensing process in areas that involve minimal security risk," said the Pentagon announcement on Friday.

It said the move, approved by William Rudman, deputy defence undersecretary for trade policy, gives the Commerce Department unilateral authority to approve exports of computers up to a previously-set level for the Soviet Union.

The Bush administration said in January it would work to open the eastward door to technology under intense pressure from American business and Western European allies.



Special seminar

Hempel Paints, the first paint manufacturers in Kuwait, recently held a special seminar on the application and maintenance of coatings. Invited guests were high-ranking officials and engineers from the Ministry of Public Works, the National Housing Authority and the Municipality. Dr Jens Holm Hansen, a training specialist with Hempel Paints was invited from Denmark to offer his expert advice on the various technicalities of paints. Dr Hansen and other Hempel Paints associates spoke in details on the procedures of surface preparation, paint application, specifications, coating inspection and the maintenance and repair of structures. The seminar, held at the Sharaton Hotel over a three day period, proved a success and was well appreciated by the Municipality and the Ministry of Public Works.

W. German govt renews commitment to monetary union with East Germany

BONN, March 31. (Reuters) The West German government yesterday renewed its commitment to monetary union with East Germany this summer after apparent doubts about the timetable.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann said agreement between the two Germanys on monetary and economic union would be reached before early May.

"Fundamental decisions will be settled before East German communal elections on May 6," Haussmann said in a guest article to be published in Friday's edition of Die Welt.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in the same newspaper, said East Germans

must already be able to feel the effect of currency union before their holidays in July.

The renewed commitment to monetary union this summer came a day after the chief spokesman for West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said monetary union would take longer than East Germans could take longer than previously indicated.

Just working out the necessary laws could last well into the summer if negotiations to form a new East German government drag on, the spokesman said.

"I think the politicians are back-peddalling," economist Warren Oliver of UBS Phillips & Drew in London said

earlier. "It is most noticeable in politics but also on the monetary side."

The main opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SPD), was critical of any delay.

SPD spokeswoman Ingrid Mattheus-Maier said East German companies were relying on promises made by Kohl's government during the East German election campaign to introduce the West German mark by July 1 at the latest.

"It would be irresponsible if the West German government begins rebuilding the young democracy with a broken promise," she said in a party statement.

The promises were made as about

2,000 East Germans a day poured across the border to the West. The country's workforce was disappearing and West Germany's immigrant resettlement camps were overflowing.

The pressure has begun to ease. The East German exodus has slowed since the March 18 election. On Monday 1,172 arrived in the West, 13 per cent fewer than the week before.

However, several questions on monetary union still need to be answered. Chief among these is the exchange rate for East to West German marks, the cost of opening East Germany's backward industry to fierce global competition, and who will pay.

The search for answers has been

slowed by lack of knowledge about East Germany's economy, and understanding of their accounting techniques.

"We don't even know how to distinguish between a firm that is profitable and one that operates at a loss," one West German economist said.

Waigel has repeatedly said that currency union can only come once all the facts about East Germany's economy are known.

Officials have said the day West German marks become legal tender in the East — dubbed Day X by the Germans — some East Germans' personal savings will be swapped at a one-for-one

rate. If all savings were swapped at once, demand could surge and inflation rise. The swap must therefore be accompanied by a mechanism to lock a portion of the savings and transfer them into rebuilding industry, economists say.

The swap rate for pensions is also likely to be one-for-one to avoid widespread poverty.

Rejuvenating East Germany's economy could cost up to 50 billion marks (\$30 billion) a year in the first two years, according to Einar Pioreth, tipped to be economics minister in East Germany's first democratically elected government.



Shares plunge

Floor dealers gather around trading counters at the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Friday as shares plunge on heavy index-linked selling, leaving the Nikkei index more than 1,000 points down and below the 30,000-point level at the close. The key 225-share Nikkei index was down 1,045.71 points or 3.37 per cent to 29,980.45. (Reuters wirephoto)

EEC, Hungary sign loan pact

BRUSSELS, March 31. (Reuters) The European Economic Community and Hungary yesterday signed an accord for the first tranche of a \$1 billion loan to help Budapest on the road to a free market economy.

The European Commission, the community's executive, said the tranche of 350 million European currency units (\$420 million) would be paid in the next few days.

It is the first part of a three-stage, five-year loan that will total 870 million Ecus (\$1.04 billion).

"(This loan) represents a token of confidence on our part in the determination of Hungary's political and economic reforms to succeed with political leaders and economic recovery in their country," EEC commissioners Henning Christophersen and Karel Van Miert, who signed for the community, said in a statement.

The credit was requested by Budapest last November to help the country cope with worsening balance of payments problems.

The community agreed on condition that Hungary first reached an agreement with the International Monetary Fund to restructure its communist centrally planned economy.

Tackling economic woes will be one of the major tasks facing the new government which emerges after a second round of parliamentary elections on April 8.

Job market continues to tighten

Price index climbs

TOKYO, March 31. (AP) Japan's nation-wide consumer price index in February climbed 3.6 per cent from a year earlier due to unusually cold weather, while the yen's recent weakness pushed up wholesale prices, the government announced yesterday.

The management and co-ordination agency said February's nation-wide consumer prices were up 0.3 per cent from the previous month.

It said the consumer price index stood at 105.1 compared to the 1985 base of 100.

February's 3.6 per cent year-on-year gain was the largest since November, 1981, when it rose 3.8 per cent, it said.

Price increases in vegetables resulting from heavy snowfall and cold weather were largely responsible for pushing up consumer prices last month, said an agency official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Fresh vegetables were the most affected items. Among vegetables, whose prices rose 17.3 per cent in February, fresh vegetable prices surged 24.9 per cent, the agency said.

It said the index excluding fresh vegetable prices stood at 104.9 unchanged from January and up 3.0 per cent from a year earlier.

Fruit prices increased by 14.7 per cent and dairy products rose 10.8 per cent, it said.

Recreation expenses registered a 5.1 per cent increase, the agency said.

Consumer prices in the Tokyo area rose 0.4 per cent in March from the previous month, and 3.5 per cent higher than a year earlier, it said. Tokyo-area prices are seen as early indicators of price movements for the rest of Japan.

The agency attributed the rise to price increases in fresh vegetables, fruit and clothes.

Tokyo-area consumer prices posted 3.2 per cent growth from a year earlier for the entire fiscal 1989, which ends today, it said.

Price increases in 1989 were sharp compared to the past three years between fiscal 1986 and 1988 — up 0.3 per cent in 1986, 0.9 per cent in 1987 and 1.1

percent in 1989 — mainly due to a 3 per cent sales tax introduced last April, the agency said.

Japan's wholesale prices, also announced yesterday by the Bank of Japan, edged up 0.2 per cent in the second 10 days of March compared with the previous 10 days, while they increased 3.8 per cent from a year earlier.

The wholesale price index stood at 90.3, compared with 100 in 1985.

The Central Bank said this month's increase was due in part to the Japanese yen's weakness. Wholesale prices have been rising gradually in recent months as the yen's steady decline pushed up import costs.

The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said the government predicts 1.6 per cent inflation for fiscal 1990, even at current exchange rate levels, since the impact of the sales tax on price data will disappear after March. An expected amendment of the consumption tax could push down prices about 0.2 per cent, it said.

Meanwhile, Japan posted a \$4,907 billion current account surplus in February, down 32.4 per cent from a \$7,255 billion surplus a year earlier, the Finance Ministry reported yesterday.

This marked the 12th consecutive decline in the nation's current account surplus from year-earlier levels, the ministry said. But there was also a return to an overall surplus in the current account, following January's \$636 million deficit, its first in six years.

Japan's trade surplus in February was \$5,491 billion, a 35.6 per cent drop from the \$8,521 billion surplus posted the year before.

Exports amounted to \$21.5 billion, down \$500 million, or 2.2 per cent, from \$22.0 billion the year earlier, the ministry said. Imports climbed to \$16.1 billion, up \$2.6 billion, or 18.9 per cent, from the year before, it said.

Also yesterday, the government announced the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February fell to 2.1 per cent, as the job market continued to tighten.

BLONDIE

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM

By Bill Hoest



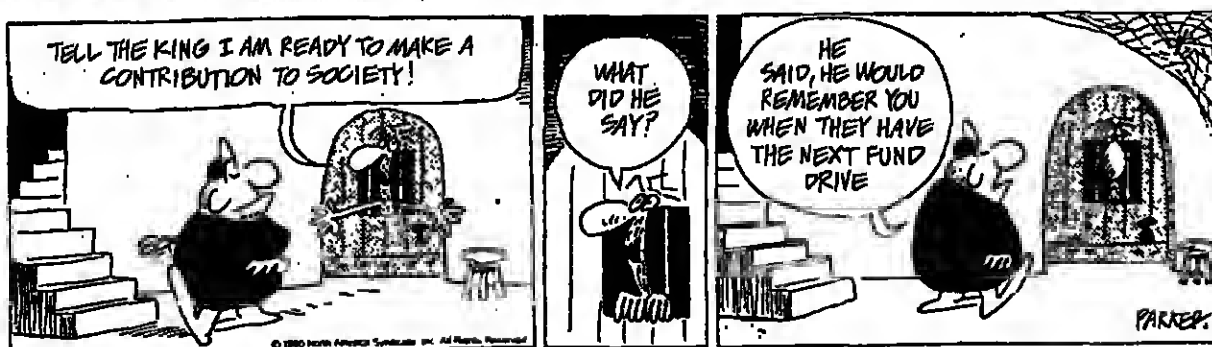
BEETLE BAILEY

By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brian Parker & Johnny Hart

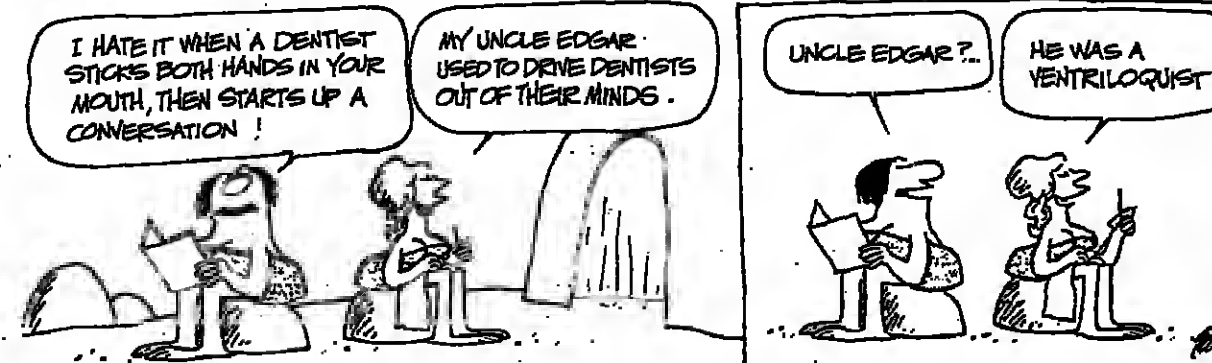


ANDY CAPP



B.C.

By Johnny Hart

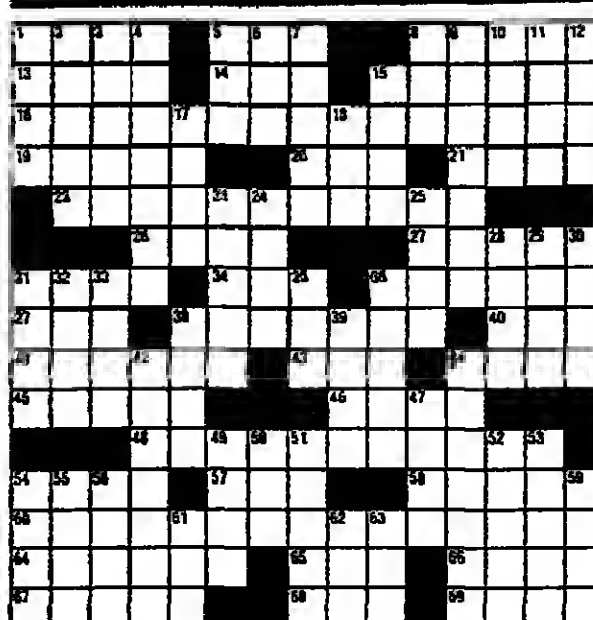


THE MAN

By G. Fortson & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 "The Magic Mountain" author
 - 5 Bread spread
 - 8 Cacha
 - 13 Entertainer Adams
 - 14 — Jima
 - 15 Draw — (approach)
 - 16 Start of a quote by Mark Twain
 - 19 Patisserie purchase
 - 20 Charged particle
 - 21 Slave of old
 - 22 Mors of the quote
 - 26 Elevator man
 - 27 Merchant vessel
 - 31 A — Apple
 - 34 Boxer Cruz
 - 36 Tuna's relative
 - 37 More of the quote
 - 38 Mors of the quote
 - 40 Bovine comment
 - 41 Spool
 - 43 Heavy weight
 - 44 Impression
 - 45 Regions
 - 46 Le Moko in "Algiers"
 - 48 Mors of the quote
 - 54 Injection
 - 57 Author Anais
 - 58 Poet Rainer Maria
 - 60 End of the quote
 - 64 Fall blooms
 - 65 Lodge member
 - 66 — "the Mood For Love"
 - 67 Like Junior's room
 - 68 Bakery
- DOWN**
- 1 Soften
 - 2 Turn — ear
 - 3 Middle of TNT
 - 4 Atomic particle
 - 5 Sail
 - 6 Wonder
 - 7 Theme
 - 8 DC figure
 - 9 Receives as a guest
 - 10 Sounds from Sandy
 - 11 Overwhelm
 - 12 Links unit
 - 15 Billions
 - 16 Comb. form
 - 17 Paving stone
 - 18 Boo or yoo
 - 23 Discover
 - 24 Danish weights
 - 25 Weaver's need
 - 28 Key — pia
 - 29 Harrow's rival
 - 30 Cheer
 - 31 Swedish rock group
 - 32 Puccini's "Angelica"
 - 33 "Wouldn't — Lowly?"
 - 35 Giant Mel
 - 36 "The Devil and Daniel Webster" author
 - 38 Angla
 - 39 School dances
 - 42 Conflicts
 - 44 Congressional worry
 - 47 Jambon source
 - 49 River of Austria
 - 50 — Grande
 - 51 Stage direction
 - 52 Moslem council
 - 53 Yam quantity
 - 54 Con man's swindle
 - 55 Water down
 - 56 Excuses
 - 59 First name in US literary annals
 - 61 Parched
 - 62 Stallions, to friends
 - 63 Hula accompaniment

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

INFO NAPIA SLAB
NORM SNORE POME
FRUITCAKES DOER
EMITS LESSENING
RAIT AMY ENG
TARDI ENTERRIE
BARE PINCHER REE
ALICE CAT EVENT
ROE CRAYON TANS
OESTAE CORED
EMS ANI FAR
PIEDPIPER FERMI
ARIO GRAPEFRUIT
GORE NOTUS NINE
ONER ASSE ETES

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WE DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q
♥ 8 7 4 3
♦ A K 5 4
♣ Q 10 6 3

WEST
♠ J 10 5
♥ J 10 9 5
♦ 10 8 2
♣ K J 2

EAST
♠ K 7 3
♥ K Q
♦ Q J 9 6
♣ 8 7 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A 9 8 6 4 2
♥ A 6 2
♦ 7 3
♣ A 9

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

At the blackjack table, the house's edge is that the dealer's second card is concealed, which forces the player to act before he knows whether the dealer has a good or bad hand. In bridge, the fact that declarer's hand is hidden can have a similar advantage.

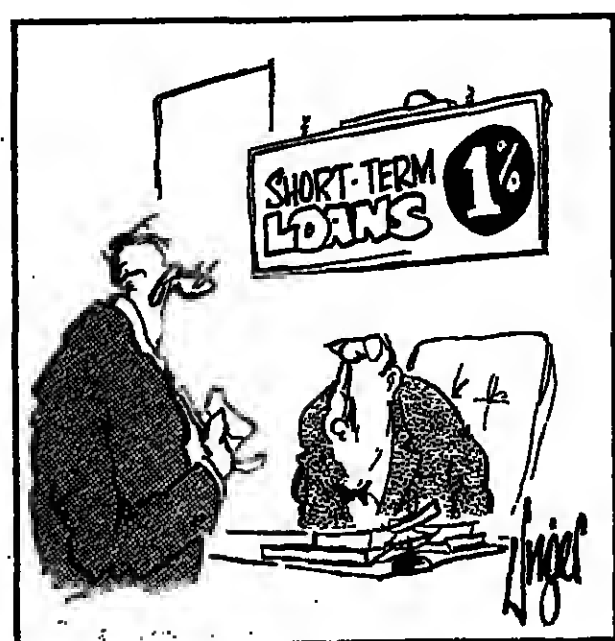
Both North and South were aggressive in the auction. North would

have liked another spade and South should have had a better suit to go on to game. But some fine card-reading — reliance on a defender's 16 — to sneak home.

From the opening lead and East's play of the queen at trick one, declarer deduced it was likely East had the bare king-queen of hearts. So South took the ace of hearts and immediately led ace and another club. West climbed up with the king and reverted to a heart to partner's king.

East could do no better than shift to a diamond, taken in dummy. Declarer discarded a heart on the queen of clubs, then led the queen of spades. Afraid that to cover would cost a trick if declarer's spade suit was headed by a J 10, East ducked. So did declarer.

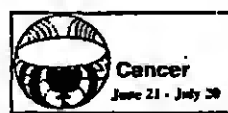
After cashing the ace of diamonds, South came to hand with a diamond ruff to play ace and another spade. When the suit split evenly, declarer had held his losers to one trick in each suit except for diamonds. Not bad for someone who seemed to have started out with two losers in trumps, two in hearts and one in clubs.



YOUR STARS



You will be better able to assess the situation you are in. Try to retain a full sense of proportion. Do not allow thoughts of work to intrude today. Be reliable.



Think of yourself but avoid becoming too selfish. You will be able to spend most of the day in pleasant company. You will not be able to avoid doing something that has to be done but you do not like doing: don't even try to. Be sensible.



You should not allow anything to upset the harmony with your partner. You will not be able to have all things your own way and you would be wrong to try to do so. Make sure you do not exceed safe and proper limits. Be less reticent.



You are a little too inclined to believe that everything is as you would like it to be. Try a little harder to understand what is on your partner's mind. There is room for a little more optimism but none for euphoria. Be polite.



Avoid becoming involved in something that does not really concern you. Do not take everything quite so seriously. However, do not think that everything is trivial or ridiculous either. Be generous.



You should pay a little more attention to the state of your health. Make sure your diet is varied and not too much based on sweet things. Try to concentrate on the more positive aspects. Be conciliatory.



You will be more able to relax but that does not mean using indolence. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 37. Something that has been puzzling you will now become a lot clearer. Avoid exposing yourself to noise and do not be noisy either. Be objective.



You should beware of mistaking a daydream for what really is. You would do well to try to have a good laugh at yourself. Now is a good time to take stock and change course if needs be. Be resilient.



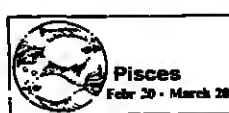
You will be more persuasive but you will still not be able to achieve all you would like. Never mind think of how well you have done. And reflect a little more upon your future course. Be considerate.



You should not allow some small setback to get you down. Stick to your principles but without being obstinate. Keep an open mind towards new ideas, but avoid novelty just for the sake of something new and different. Be tolerant.



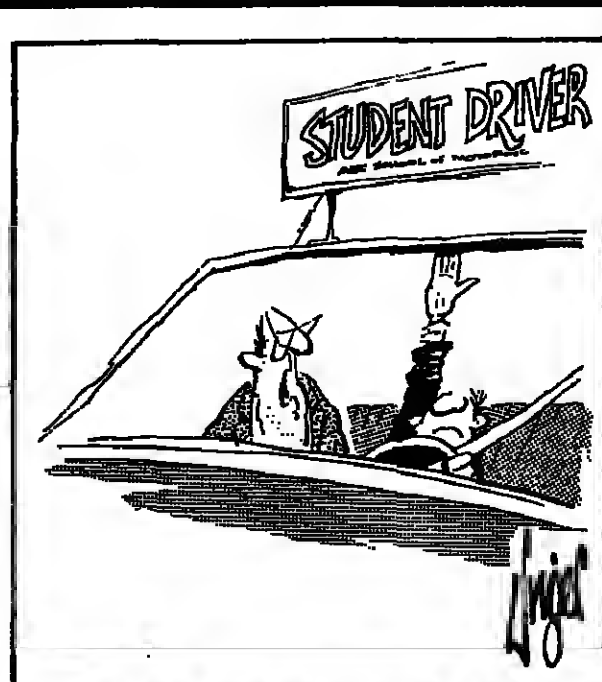
You should take a little more pride in yourself. Be kind. However, that does not mean being haughty or snobbish. An offer or proposal should be taken seriously and examined for hidden snags, too. Be tactful.



You will have plenty of energy but must make sure you do not dissipate it. Take just a little more interest in what is happening around you. A tendency to act on impulse should not be indulged. Be fair.



"Hey, waiter. We'll share a medium pizza."



"Don't drive around like that! Find a gas station!"

W. Germany and Italy suffer setbacks

Doubles pair put Aussies 2-1 up



Muster celebrates his victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

LONDON, March 31. (Reuters): Darren Cahill and Davis Cup debutant Mark Kratzmann put their doubles experience to good effect today, beating New Zealand's Kelly Evernden and David Lewis to give Australia a 2-1 lead in their world group quarter-final tie.

The Australian pair proved far too strong in a 7-5 6-3 7-6 (7-5) victory, losing their serve just once in the two-hour match.

"We have played a lot of doubles together in the last two or three years and I think we are the best team in Australia at present," Kratzmann said. "They have played a lot together and that showed," said New Zealand captain Jeff Simpson. "They just move together well, are aggressive on returns and volley well."

New Zealand's only break came in the dying stages when Kratzmann served for the match with Australia leading 5-4 after Lewis, the younger brother of 1983 Wimbledon champion Chris, had saved two match points on his serve.

Australia powered to a 5-0 lead in the third set's tiebreaker before New Zealand pulled back to 5-4. But Australia clinched victory on their third match-

point. ● Davis Cup holders West Germany fell behind to Argentina then had their bid to draw level foiled by the weather.

Austria pushed the first round Italian conquerors of mighty Sweden close to defeat by taking a 2-0 lead in Vienna while the vaunted United States were surprisingly held 1-1 in Prague by a Czechoslovak team weakened by the absence of the injured Miloslav Mecir.

Alberto Mancini gave Argentina an expected lead by beating Jens Woehrmann 7-5 4-6 7-6 7-6 after winning both tie-breakers 7-2 in a match which West German Boris Becker would have played had he not decided to hyssop the tie.

Then his replacement, Michael Stich, came down with a stomach ailment on Wednesday, forcing Woehrmann into the spotlight. Though Woehrmann did not disgrace himself, world number 16 Mancini always looked stronger.

Now the pressure will be on Stich to preserve West German hopes of a third successive Cup title when he faces the dangerous Jaime on the clay court of the Buenos Aires Lawn tennis club this evening.

That match did not even begin yesterday because of a delay at the start following heavy overnight rain and then increasing darkness at the end of the first match. The doubles were to follow it today.

Thomas Muster helped Austria to their healthy lead over Italy, for whom Paolo Cane won all three matches in the first round upset of Sweden.

Trailing

But Cane came up just short against Muster, losing in five sets after trailing by two sets and after a run-in with a catcalling spectator at a crucial juncture of the decider.

In the opening match, Horst Skoff inflicted a nightmare on Diego Nargiso, crushing him 6-0 6-0 6-2.

The United States were denied the lead they might have expected against Czechoslovakia as substitutes won both singles matches.

First Aaron Krickstein, replacing the absent Andre Agassi, outlasted Milan Srejber 4-6 7-6 6-7 6-3. Then an inspired Petr Korda, brought in to replace the injured Miloslav Mecir, demolished the world's fifth-ranked Brad Gilbert 6-2 6-3 6-3.

Nicklaus two behind leaders in PGA event

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, March 31. (AP): Jack Nicklaus shot a 1-under-par 71 and was two strokes back of the co-leaders yesterday in his first start on the Seniors PGA Tour.

Nicklaus, the last man out on the course, birdied the 18th hole to move among the leaders in the day-late start of the storm-delayed tradition at Desert Mountain.

With two rounds to go in the tournament that was reduced to a 54-hole format when Thursday's play was rained out, Mike Hill, Bruce Crampton, Al Geiberger and Phil Rodgers shared the top spot at 69.

George Archer, Rocky Thompson and Larry Ziegler were one back at 70.

Gary Player and 1989 Senior Player of the Year Bob Charles were tied with Nicklaus in a large group at 71, one under par on the course in the remote desert highlands north of Phoenix.

KPBL games

RESULTS OF KPBL games played on Friday: Nissan Al-Babtain 87 Kay & Associates 86; Al Ghanim Freight & Travel 97; KRP 77; KDD 95 Overland Transport Co. 93; K.P.B.C. 99 KHC-Bayan 87; EMI 121 Trico International 109.

A full account of these games shall appear in tomorrow's issue (Monday) of The Arab Times.

AC Milan fined, Donadoni banned

BERNE, March 31. (Reuters): AC Milan were fined 150,000 Swiss francs (\$100,000) yesterday for misbehaviour by fans in last week's European Cup quarterfinals and winger Roberto Donadoni was effectively banned for the rest of his title defence.

The European Football Union (UEFA) control and disciplinary committee imposed a three-match suspension on Donadoni, who was sent off for violence in the second leg of the quarterfinal against Belgium's Mechelen on March 21.

UEFA said in a statement after a two-day meeting in Zurich that AC Milan fans were responsible for a fire in the Milan stadium which delayed the start. Missiles were also thrown on to the pitch.

Fines totalling a further 150,000 francs (\$100,000) were imposed on clubs for offences involving fans or players.

Partizan Belgrade were fined 50,000 francs (\$33,000) after their fans set off fire works in a Cup-Winners' Cup quarterfinal first leg against Dinamo Bucharest on March 7.

French club Auxerre were ordered to pay a similar amount for infringing a rule banning advertising on jerseys in their UEFA Cup quarterfinal first leg against Italy's Fiorentina.

Auxerre's Basile Boli, sent off for violent conduct in the return leg two weeks later, received a three-match suspension. Fiorentina's Giuseppe Iachini, expelled in the same match for persistent foul play, was banned for two matches.

Dnepropetrovsk of the Soviet Union must pay a 20,000-franc (\$13,300) fine for attempted assault by a supporter on a linesman in the home leg of their European Cup

clash with Portugal's Benfica on March 21.

Swiss club Grasshopper Zurich and Italy's Sampdoria were each fined 15,000 francs (\$10,000) because fans from both clubs repeatedly threw objects on to the pitch during their quarter-final return leg in the Cup-Winners' Cup on March 22.

Appeals must be lodged by midnight April 4.

UEFA said the following players were banned from the first leg of the semifinals on April 3 and 4 in view of earlier bookings in its three club competitions.

Jann Jensen, Paul Steiner (both Cologne), Carlos Bledorn Verri (Fiorentina), Amedeo Carboni (Sampdoria), Roland Wohlfahrt, Roland Grahmann (both Bayern Munich), Iulian Mihaiescu, Ionut Lupescu (both Dinamo Bucharest).

Platini dreams of World Cup glory

PARIS, March 31. (Reuters): French national team chief Michel Platini said yesterday his present squad would have had a chance of winning this summer's World Cup in Italy — if France had qualified.

Platini, looking back on the French team's most successful season ever, told the sports Daily L'Equipe in an interview: "We would have gone there with the aim of winning. Perhaps we wouldn't have done it. There's a good chance that we wouldn't have had some punch."

"After all, we beat three teams (Sweden, Scotland and West Germany) who are going to

Italy... ah well, we must stop dreaming."

France, semifinalists with Platini as a player in the 1982 and 1986 finals, failed to qualify for Italy because of poor results, notably a 1-1 draw in Cyprus, the previous season.

Platini has transformed the French side in the past year into an attractive, attacking team capable of winning at home or away. They won seven and drew one of their eight matches this season.

"We've given back the youngsters their confidence," he said. "And we've shown French football can be strong. What's more, we scored at least one goal in

every match."

The greatest strength of the new French team is the striking pair of Eric Cantona and Jean-Pierre Papin.

Cantona scored twice in Wednesday's 3-1 win over Hungary in Budapest to take his tally to eight goals in eight games.

● Nantes and Monaco drew 0-0 in a French First Division soccer match yesterday.

Leading standings (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Bordeaux	30	19	6	5	45	18	44
Marseille	29	17	7	5	50	27	41
Monaco	31	11	14	6	29	22	36
Sochaux	30	14	6	10	30	34	34
Lyon	30	13	9	8	33	28	33
Nantes	31	10	12	9	28	34	32

Ogle ahead

MONTPELLIER, France, March 31. (Reuters): Australian Brett Ogle enhanced his reputation for low scoring with a six-hundred 66 to take a three-stroke halfway lead in the AGF Open golf tournament at La Grand Motte yesterday.

Ogle, whose solitary European success came in last year's equity and law birdie points event in England in which he scored 59, is six-under-par on 138.

His nearest challenges for the \$54,000 top prize are Britain's Paul Curry, who shot 71, and Ireland's Des Smyth, round in a five-birdie 69.

Australian Peter McWhinney shot 69 to end on 142.



Mancini shows his joy after beating Woehrmann. (Reuters wirephoto)

Seles beats Mandlikova for place in semifinals

SAN ANTONIO, March 31. (Reuters): Second-seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia beat unseeded Hana Mandlikova of Australia 6-4 6-4 yesterday to advance to the semifinals of the \$225,000 US Women's Hard-court Tennis Championships.

Seles will play Rosalyn Fairbank-Nideffer of the United States who upset fourth-seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia 6-1 2-6 7-5.

American Lori McNeil took only 45 minutes to breeze by countrywoman Gigi Fernandez 6-2 6-0. McNeil's semifinal opponent will be Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland who defeated amateur Carrie Cunningham 6-1 6-1.

Seles, ranked fourth in the world, took just over one hour to notch her victory over the former third-ranked Mandlikova, now ranked 27th in the world.

"I just couldn't find my game at the start," the 16-year-old Seles said. "I was sure it was going to be a three-setter."

Mandlikova took an early 4-0 lead in the match. But Seles rallied and won seven consecutive games winning the first set and taking a 1-0 lead in the second set.

"I starting getting in my first serves," said Seles, who won the Players Championship earlier this month. "I wasn't rushing as much and I was trying to keep the ball in play. I was also running down a lot of balls."

Fairbank-Nideffer, ranked 21st, was behind 4-5 in the third set but took the final three games to eliminate the 11th-ranked Novotna.

"There was a lot of pressure on both of us in that third set," Fairbank-Nideffer said. "I just kept telling myself that I had to be tougher than her."

The 54th-ranked McNeil, who upset top-seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina on Thursday, used a strong attacking game at the net to subdue Fernandez who is ranked 23rd.

Lendl and Grabb in semifinals

CHICAGO, March 31. (AP): Top-seeded Ivan Lendl overpowered Amos Mansdorf with his big serve and cross court forehand smashes late last night, scoring a 6-1, 4-6, 6-2 quarterfinal victory in the \$500,000 Volvo Chicago tournament.

Equipped with a brand new Mizuno graphite composite racket pressurized at 67 pounds, Lendl said the balls appeared to be exploding for key points.

After 12 years with the same type of racket, the world's top-ranked player expressed surprise in the third set, while he was leading 4-2 and 40-30 on Mansdorf's serve.

"I hit a forehand cross court from the middle of the court with an angle on it was dipping," Lendl said. "I just didn't understand how it came off the racket."

After his easy first set win, Lendl fell behind 3-0 in the second set. He fought back only to lose the set and his serve in the 10th game.

Mansdorf had Lendl at set point four times before Lendl drove a ball over the end line.

Lendl's aggressiveness paid off, breaking Mansdorf in the fifth game of the final set and again in the seventh.

Throughout the 1:45 match, Lendl and Mansdorf constantly talked to each other.

Lendl was to play the fifth seed, Jim Grabb in a semifinal today.

Grabb fought off third-seeded Tim Mayotte's intimidating big serve to score a 6-3, 6-3 quarterfinal victory Friday.

In other matches, second-seeded Michael Chang had little trouble in eliminating the eighth seed, Paul Annacone, 7-5, 6-1.

Chang, ranked number nine in the world, was to meet the sixth seed, Richey Reneberg, in the semifinal today.

Reneberg defeated Mal Washington, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4.

Navratilova routs Fulco

HOUSTON, March 31. (AP): Top-seeded Martina Navratilova won her first round match last night in the \$250,000 Virginia Slims of Houston, beating Bettina Fulco, 6-3, 6-1.

Matches resumed yesterday at Westside Tennis Club after two days of rain delays.

In other first round action, third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario beat Gretchen Magers 6-3, 6-1.

Mary Lou Daniels defeated Sylvia Hanika 6-4, 6-4, and Laura Gildemeister beat Isabel Cueto 6-2, 7-5.

Quarterfinal matches were to begin this morning with Zena Garrison facing Sandra Cecchini. The singles final is scheduled for tomorrow. The champion will receive \$45,000.

PROFILE OF TEAMS TAKING PART IN THE KUWAIT PINOY BASKETBALL LEAGUE

KPBC

THE KPBC (Kuwait Pre-Fabricated Building Company) tagged as the team to beat (since its formation in 1986) because of its star-studded line-up is composed of Emil Caro, Lito de la Cruz, Richard Mercado, Edwin Castro, Fer de la Cruz, Lito Manuel, Ed Manuel, Ric Perez, Emilio Domingo, Ding Alejandro, Denny Aralof, Neil Orpilla, Len Soriano, Butch Arganoza, Al Barcelona, coach — Ed de la Cruz, manager — Abdullah Tiffouni, "KPBL" board of governors representative — Jilmar Tiesay and muse Ms Alice Versoza.

Emil Caro — "The Darigold Baby" is a guard, stands 5'9", weighs 100 kgs, and is 29 years old. This Libra center-forward plays the center-forward position. He is one of the few remaining original KPBC veterans that bagged the 1987 KPB Basketball Championship.

Lito de la Cruz — Lito plays the point guard for this vaunted KPBC quintet. This 29-year-old Libra stands 5'9", weighs 75 kgs, and hails from Quezon City. He has been in Kuwait for almost 5 years, and at present, he's a salesperson for the delicatessen department, The Sultan Center, Salmiya. His basketball experiences include stints with the De Ocampo Memorial College (Natl. Seniors & MMUCA), University of Manila (Inter-club), and MC Donalds (Philis-Inter-collegiate).

In Kuwait, prior to his being a KPBC dribbler, he was a member of the '86 Al Dawlah champion team. In 1987, he led his team to another KPBC championship and he was named the MVP — Most Valuable Player of the League.

Richard Mercado — Richard is 30 years old, 5'9" tall, weighs 160 lbs, and hails from Cavite. This Aquarius has been in Kuwait for almost a decade and currently

works for The Sultan Center, Salmiya, as a delicatessen manager. His other hobbies include video watching, swimming and fishing.

Edwin Mercado — Edwin "The Salmiya Boy" turned Macho Man of Adnan" stands 6'3", weighs 180 lbs, 29 years old, and hails from Guagua, Pampanga. This Leo bachelor has been in Kuwait for the past 3 years, and is presently employed by the El Hoss Engineering and Transport Co. as a heavy equipment operator. He plays the center position with great effectivity and is a master at both sides of the boards. Prior to his stint with KPBC, he played for AG&P '88 and Int'l Link '87. He says that he's very happy at KPBC, cause its more of a family than a basketball team.

Fer de la Cruz — Fer "the Pasay Kid" is 37 years old, and plays the center-forward position. He stands 6'2" and weighs 160 lbs. This Taurus hails from Bustos, Bulacan, and is the younger version of KPBC coach Ed de la Cruz. He has been in Kuwait for over a year and works for El Hoss Eng as a heavy equipment operator. This Feati University aircraft maintenance engineering graduate was once a varsity player, and loves fishing and swimming as his hobbies.

Lito Manuel — "The Alaska Baby" stands 5'11", weighs 185 lbs, and is 30 years old. He is a Taurus who hails from Manila and is currently here in Kuwait for the El Hoss Eng as a heavy equipment operator. He plays the forward position. Lito Manuel is the younger brother of Ed Manuel "Kareem Abdul Manuel" another dribbler.

Ed Manuel — "Kareem Abdul Manuel" for his hook shots is the most senior of all KPBC dribblers. At 39, he stands 6'2", weighs 165 lbs and also plays the center slot. This Taurus is another of the few



remaining KPBC veterans, and prior to his playing with this power-laden team he had stints with the Mapua Cardinals-Varsity, ITM, Trancan, Al Dawlah (Kuwait '86). His hobbies include singing and dancing. He has been in Kuwait for almost 7 years and works for El Hoss Eng as a heavy equipment operator.

Ricardo Perez — "Ric Tigras" is 32 years old, 5'9" in height, weighs 130 lbs, and plays the guard-forward position. This Taurus hails from Kamuning, Quezon City, and has been in Kuwait for nearly 6 years. He is currently employed by KPBC as a mechanic. This BSMF

degree holder is the other starting guard for this team, and prior to his wearing the KPBC colours he played for Arabtel '88 & '87, '86 & '85 & '84 for AG&P. He is also a two-time MVP awardee of the KPB games.

Emie Domingo — "The Carnation Baby" stands 6'0", weighs 195 lbs, is 34 years old and plays the guard-forward position. This Gemini hails from Sta Ana, Manila, and has been in Kuwait for almost 8 years. At present he is working as a heavy equipment operator for the Public Ports Authority. Prior to his wearing the KPBC colours, he was a team-

mate of Ric "Tigras" Perez (Arabtel '88) GMBH '87, Fortune Tobacco '77, National University '76-70 (UAAP Juniors & Seniors). Next to basketball, he fancies chess, tennis and billiards.

Ding Alejandro — Ding works at the Airport Hotel as a bell boy. An Aquarius, Ding stands 5'10", weighs 76 kgs, 27 years old, and hails from Caloocan City. He has been in Kuwait for nearly 4 years, and since his arrival he's been in KPBC, highly instrumental in its '87 championship. His other hobbies include singing, dancing, outing, and swimming. He plays the forward position.

Neil Orpilla — Neil is 30 years old, stands 5'9-1/2", weighs 72 kgs, and plays the forward position. This Aries has been in Kuwait for almost 4 years, and is currently employed by The Sultan Center, Salwa as a baker. This tourism graduate of De Ocampo Memorial College is also a member of the '87 KPBC champion team, and prior to his arrival in Kuwait, he donned the colours of DOMC. He is the younger brother of one time pro-ball player "Jesse Orpilla."

Len Soriano — "The Foreigner" for his Arabic features. Len is a heavy equipment operator for the El Hoss Engineering. He stands 5'8" tall, weighs 160 lbs, is 29 years old and hails from Florida Blanca, Pampanga. Another Taurus, Len plays the guard-forward position and is quite effective from within the perimeter. He was a member of the '86 Al Dawlah champion team prior to his wearing the KPBC colours. He is also one of the few veterans left of the KPBC champion team '87. His hobbies include swimming and dancing (native dances).

Butch Arganoza — One of the two new faces in the KPBC roster, Butch is better known as "Michael Jordan-Arganoza." This Aries bachelor is 27 years old, stands 5'9", weighs 125 lbs, and plays the guard-forward position. He has been in Kuwait for the past 4 years, and is currently employed by the SAS Hotel as an electrician. Prior to his being recruited to the KPBC fold, he was a SAS dribbler best remembered for his high scoring outputs in last year's KPB games.

Al Barcelon — Another of the new additions to the KPBC line-up, Al better known as "The Heart-Break Kid" is 25 years old, stands 5'9", weighs 72 kgs, and hails from Manila. Another Taurus-bachelor, Al plays the forward position and is deadly from the outside as he is with his finger-

roll drives. Before his KPBC stint, he played with EEL '89, Pinoy Real, taurani champion team '88, EEL '87, and was a former MMC varsity player.

Danny Aralof — "Ray" stands 5'8", weighs 150 lbs, is 32 years old and hails from El Salvador, Mindanao. Playing the guard position, this Aquarius has been in Kuwait for the past 7 years, and is currently employed by the Sultan Center-salad department as a salad chef. In his 7 years in Kuwait, he has been actively participating in the Filipino community's basketball activities and prior to his wearing the KPBC colours '88, he played for Al Bahar '87, Al Dawlah champion team '86 and Nafisi Farouki '85. Among his hobbies are singing, dancing, cooking, and swimming.

Eddie de la Cruz — Ed as he is fondly called is the long-time coach of this KPBC. Since its formation in 1986, Ed was with this squad which participates not only in Filipino organized tournaments but also in Kuwait sponsored tournaments. This controversial mentor (often times criticised for his performance) stands 5'10", weighs 165 lbs., and hails from Bustos, Bulacan. This Leo has been in Kuwait for almost 9 years, and prior to his coaching stint with KPBC '86, he was with Al Dawlah Electronics champion team '86. This BSC management graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas works for the El Hoss Engineering as a dispatching supervisor, and lists his hobbies as bowling, swimming, outing, dancing and cooking.

Abdullah Tiffouni — team manager Abdullah Tiffouni is a 40-year old Kuwaiti, standing 5'10" tall and weighs 170 lbs. One of the most well-known team managers who takes care of his players not only during the games but also in their daily lives here in Kuwait, he is a

picture of a true basketball fan, who would do everything in his power & capacity to watch the games. He is working at the KPBC-Kuwait Pre-Fab Bldg. Co. as a newly promoted finance manager. Prior to his managing the KPBC 5, he was involved with the Overland Transport Co. & KGL 5s. He likes the sea as much as basketball and his other hobbies include swimming, fishing and boat racing. Asked about his team and the KPBL, he says "We are very happy and proud to be part of it, and no matter what the results are, even if my team doesn't make it as the champions, we will always be there trying, cause my boys and their fans love basketball & KPBL."

Gilmar Tiesay — "Gill" as he is called by his friends, better known as the "Birch Tree" — Baby" stands 5'2" tall, weighs 150 lbs, is 34 years old and hails from Florida Blanca, Pampanga. This Sagittarius representative to the KPBL Board of Governors has been in Kuwait for nearly 5 years and works for the El Hoss Engineering as a heavy equipment operator. He says that he is most proud to have been a part of the KPBL Board which planned the whole KPBL organization and its activities cause everything is done accordingly and the results of our sacrifices are starting to bear fruits for harvesting of the entire Filipino community as a whole.

Alice Versoza — team muse Alice is a 24-year-old Scorpio from Cebu City. She stands 5'3", weighs 110 lbs., and is still 'single'. She is a new face here Kuwait, and she works for the Bousbari Film Co. in Fahheel as a counter salesperson. Alice charmed her way during the opening day ceremonies winning the coveted award of "best-miss KPBL" which she rightly deserved. This beautiful lady is a degree holder in accounting and lists her hobbies as swimming, bowling, dancing and outing.

SPORTS BRIEFS

America's Cup

PERTH, Australia, March 31. (Reuters): The Royal Perth Yacht Club said today it had resigned as challenger of record for the next America's Cup series, due to take place in 1992.

Woodlands Open

WOODLANDS, March 31. (Reuters): P.H. Horgan's 66 stood up throughout the completion of the rain-plagued first round at the \$1 million Woodlands Open golf tournament yesterday.

Qualifying spot

DARLINGTON, South Carolina, March 31. (AP): Geoff Bodine gave Junior Johnson's team its first role in two years yesterday, taking the top qualifying spot for tomorrow's Trans-South 500 at Darlington Raceway.

Williams released

WASHINGTON, March 31. (AP): Doug Williams, who turned in a record-setting performance in the 1988 Super Bowl, was released yesterday by the Washington Redskins, who didn't want to keep him as a third-stringer.

1992 Games

MADRID, March 31. (Reuters): Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will head a Dutch soccer cabinet ministers charged with smoothing the way for successful 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, as government spokeswoman said yesterday.

Rugby teams

WINDHOEK, March 31. (Reuters): Wales and France will send rugby union touring teams to newly-independent Namibia this year, the president of the Namibia Rugby Union (NARU) Gert Muller said yesterday.

Dutch coach

AMSTERDAM, March 31. (Reuters): A Dutch court will rule next week whether national soccer coach This Libregts should remain in charge of the side for this summer's World Cup finals, a Dutch Soccer Association (KNVB) spokesman said yesterday.

Major shareholder

SHEFFIELD, March 31. (Reuters): Sheffield United chairman Reg Breasley said yesterday he had decided against selling his majority shareholding in the English Second Division club to Iraqi-born businessman Sam Hashimi.

Brazilian striker

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 31. (Reuters): Brazil national team doctor Lidio Toledo yesterday refused to rule striker Romario out of the World Cup soccer finals despite a second operation on the player's broken right leg.

Police plan

ROME, March 31. (AP): Police from the 24 World Cup nations plan to trade information in order to spot soccer bootleggers and keep track of them during this summer's soccer tournament, law enforcement officials said yesterday.

Georgians expelled

MOSCOW, March 31. (Reuters): Soviet soccer authorities have expelled the Georgian Football Federation and suspended its Lithuanian counterpart following decisions by both bodies not to compete in the National League. Izvestia reported yesterday.

Gower, Bairstow drafted

Greenidge slams England

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, March 31. (Reuters): England were put to the sword by Gordon Greenidge yesterday as their former captain David Gower stepped out of the press box and back into the team and wicketkeeper David Bairstow was also recalled.

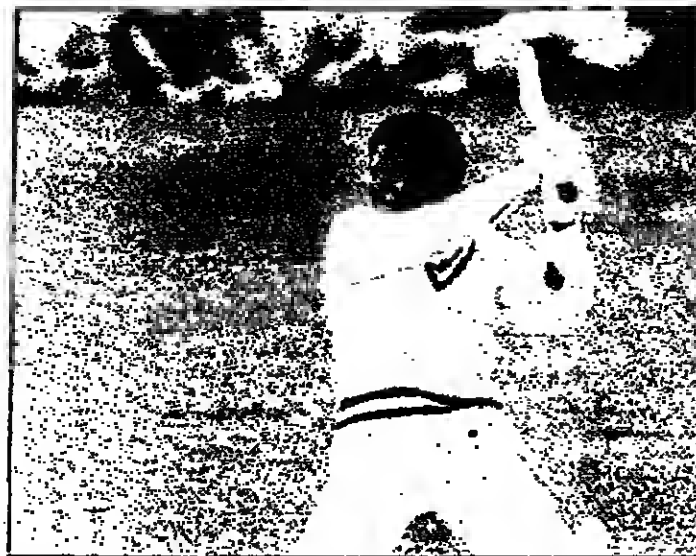
West Indies opener Greenidge returned to form with a commanding 163 not out for Barbados, who were 340 for four at the close of the opening day of the three-day cricket match at Kensington Oval.

Gower, overlooked when the England squad was chosen but covering the tour as a writer and broadcaster, agreed to play to offset the team's injury problems.

Captain Graham Gooch is the main casualty with his left hand broken in two places, but stand-in wicketkeeper Rob Bailey joined the casualty list when he bruised a hand and did not appear after lunch.

Bairstow, touring Barbados with his county Yorkshire, was called from a sight-seeing trip to take over behind the stumps. His appearance allowed Jack Russell to continue to have a match off and Alec Stewart to rest a damaged hand.

Allan Lamb, leading England for the first time, won the toss and put Barbados in on a lively



Greenidge: unbeaten on 163

but true pitch and was rewarded with the wicket of Test opener Desmond Haynes for nine.

Haynes fell in the 11th over when pace bowler Phillip DeFreitas persuaded him to snick a simple catch to Bailey with the total 32.

Greenidge, who has not been at his best in the current Test series, mixed solid defence with harsh treatment for the bad ball, completing his half century in 74 balls with seven fours and 100 in 135 balls with 15 fours.

Carlisle Best started slowly but by tea he had driven and slashed his way to 50 in 97 balls with five fours, and went on to share a second-wicket partnership of 215 with Greenidge.

Left-arm spinner Keith Medley had his first bowl for 47 days and was dealt with savagely by both batsmen. Two balls were lost as each batsman hit him out of the ground.

But Medley had the last laugh as Best holed out to DeFreitas at long-off after mak-

ing 95 and then Thelston Payne played on to the spinner for a duck.

Off-spinner Eddie Hemmings had Roland Holder lbw for 18, sweeping across the line, but Greenidge marched to his 150 off 206 balls with his 19th four.

Malcolm Marshall, returning after being out for a month with a broken finger, weighed in by swinging Hemmings for three fours to one over as Lamb declined to take the new ball.

For Gower, who made several fine steps in the covers, the long day in the field must have stirred memories of last summer's Ashes series when he captained England to their 4-0 series defeat.

Scoreboard

BARBADOS first innings
G. Greenidge not out 163
C. Best c Bailey b Medley 9
C. Best c DeFreitas b Medley 9
T. Payne b Medley 0
R. Holder lbw b Hemmings 18
M. Marshall not out 23
Extras (b-3 lb-8 nb-21) 32
Total (four wickets) 340
Fall of wickets: 1-32 2-247 3-250 4-289

To bat: R. Hoyte, H. Springer, S. Skeeta, T. Johnson, V. Walcott
Bowling: (to date) DeFreitas 17-1-60-1, Lewis 11-1-51-0, Capel 10-0-53-0, Hemmings 26-8-70-1, Medley 23-1-95-2
England: D. Capel, A. Stewart, R. Bailey, N. Hussain, R. Smith, O. Gower, A. Lamb, P. DeFreitas, C. Lewis, K. Medley, E. Hemmings.

Soviet champion

MOSCOW, March 31. (UPI): Soviet Olympic gymnastics champion and world No. 2 Natalya Lushchenova yesterday won the world stars-90 gymnastics championship at Moscow's Luzhniki Sports Palace.

Lemond out

ST SATURNIN, France, March 31. (UPI): Defending Tour de France champion Greg Lemond, suffering from fatigue and possibly a virus, has bowed out of the Tour of Flanders, which starts tomorrow.



Richards ruled out

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, March 31. (Reuters): West Indies captain Viv Richards has been ruled out of the fifth and final one-day cricket international against England here next Tuesday.

Richards, who missed the third Test that ended in Port of Spain on Wednesday because of a recurrence of haemorrhoids, was originally included in a squad of 13 for the limited-overs match at Kensington Oval.

However, a West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) statement said yesterday: "Although Richards has been responding favourably to treatment for a recurring ailment, it was not considered prudent to consider him for selection in this match."

The WICBC said he was expected to be fit for the fourth Test starting at Bridgetown next Thursday.

Fast bowler Malcolm Marshall, who broke a finger in the third one-day international on March 3 and returned to first-class cricket for Barbados against England on Friday, is named in a squad of 12.

West Indies have an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the series in which the first two games were washed out.

Zimbabwe complete start of 5-year plan

HARARE, March 31. (AP): Zimbabwe's part-time cricketers have completed the first part of their five-year trial period in a bid for Test status.

After a six-week tour by England's reserve team, the results can be summarized as disappointing but not necessarily discouraging.

Zimbabwe won only one match on the entire tour, the opening one-day fixture when the country districts farmers caught out England before they became acclimatized to heat and the pace of the ball at 5,000 feet altitude.

Zimbabwe went down 1-0 the unofficial Test series, drawing the other two when England held the whip hand. Zimbabwe "B" and youth teams drew their three-day matches with England but were always struggling.

And in the one-day series, the home team was blanked 3-0 tarnishing a reputation as a limited overs side to be reckoned with by almost anybody.

These results can hardly be encouraging for Zimbabwe or their supporters within the International Cricket Conference. But there are some signs for optimism.

Three or four youngsters have shown technique and concentration to acquire large scores off the England bowlers, who are among the best in the county championship. In particular, Gavin Briant — who is off to Somerset — and brothers Grant and Andy Flower.

Zimbabwe also has a class batsman in David Houghton, their skipper. The attack is ageing and lacking the fire of Peter Rawson, who moved to Natal a few months ago.

But another prospect is strike bowler Ethan Dube. This young cricketer has many hopes pinned on him here — not only because he could be very good when some delivery faults are ironed out, but also because his success might encourage others blacks into the game or at least onto the spectator benches.

In order to achieve Test status in 1995, Zimbabwe must show the game flourishes here in depth. There is a comprehensive schools and club coaching programme. Good facilities are available. But crowds have been poor. Midweek cricket attracted perhaps 200-300 a day. Yet a dozen years ago when Rhodesia — as Zimbabwe then was known played Currie Cup cricket, crowds of 10,000 were common.

Zimbabwe's next hurdle is the ICC Trophy tournament, to be staged by the Netherlands in June. The winner on the last two occasions, Zimbabwe must not only do so again for a place in the 1991 World Cup but also for the sake of their Test trial record.

It is difficult to escape the fact that in cricket capability terms there is only one country to fill the eighth Test place — South Africa. If a political solution is achieved there by 1995, Zimbabwe must be out on the cold, whatever they achieve.

TCCB supports concept of regular 'A' team tours

HARARE, March 31. (Reuters): The England A cricket tour of Kenya and Zimbabwe which finished on Thursday could set the pattern for regular second string tours, said Alan Smith, chief executive of the English Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).

The tour had been "perceived at home as being very successful," Smith said in Harare.

"The board (TCCB) is very supportive of the concept of A team tours and I hope this is the first of regular A tours. Hopefully, all the team are better players for the experience."

Endorsing a programme which included three five-day internationals against Zimbabwe, Smith said:

"Four and five-day cricket matches are a vehicle for the development of our younger players."

Smith confirmed other countries had indicated they were interested in hosting the England A team, though he thought it very unlikely that the A side would tour Zimbabwe again next year or visit Australia at the same time as the full England team.

The tour finished on Thursday with the third five-day match ending in a draw. England took the series 1-0, and won all three one-day internationals against Zimbabwe convincingly.

The tour did little to enhance Zimbabwe's hopes of achieving test status.

Tiozzo takes world title

LYON, France, March 31. (Reuters): Christophe Tiozzo the great white bope of French boxing, captured the World Boxing Association (WBA) super-middleweight title yesterday with a devastating victory over defending champion Beak In-Chul of South Korea.

Tiozzo stopped the South Korean in the sixth round of a fight which he totally dominated, inflicting so much punishment it was remarkable that Baek survived so long.

From the moment a Tiozzo right hook sent a surprised Baek to the floor early in the second round, there was little question about the outcome.

Baek took an avalanche of blows in that round and looked barely able to stand as

Tiozzo caught him with a series of left jabs.

In the third, another right hook sent the champion reeling again but if Tiozzo scented the kill, Baek soon showed he was not short of raw courage.

He made a determined effort to come back in the fourth and fifth, moving forward continually — but only to meet more of the Frenchman's blows and barely able to land any telling punches himself.

A cut appeared over his left eye in the fifth, closing it almost completely. By the sixth, he was helpless against Tiozzo's attacks and Panamanian referee Carlos Berrocal jumped in to stop the fight as Baek became a virtual punch-bag.

Simmons gets top award

DENVER, March 31. (AP): Unlike some of his moony-conscious brethren, Lionel Simmons chose to return to college for his senior year.

The decision not only will be worth a degree this spring, but it helped Simmons earn the Adolph Rupp Trophy as the Associated Press college basketball Player of the Year.

And the trophy, ironically, may mean an even more lucrative professional contract.

Simmons, a 6-foot-7 (2.01

Rugby sevens

HONG KONG, March 31. (Reuters): Results on the first day in the Hoog Kong International seven-a-side rugby union tournament today:

Group A: New Zealand 42; Arabian Gulf 0; Group B: Scottish Borders 24; Sri Lanka 0; Group C: Western Samoa 14; Papua New Guinea 4; Group D: British Barbarians 24; West Germany 0; Group E: Fiji 34; Thailand 0; Group F: Tonga 16; Taiwan 4; Group G: Wales 44; Singapore 0; Group H: Australia 48; Malaysia 0.

Standings after sixth round

Group A
Ingemar Vendiola 5 points
Niel Dumlaio 5
Edwin Borigas 4.5
Rene Mostreals 4
Danny Calasin 4
Thony Monreal 3
Sammy Aureliano 3
Ali Macayan 3
Rolly Boado 3
Rading Moje 3
Arnel Matutino 2.5
Rey Mangoriong 2.5
Ariel Martinez 2
Jess Betguen 1.5

Group B
Gil Opiana Jr 6 points
Hussain Ahmad 5
Mel Espinosa 4
Robert Vargas 4
Bernard de los Reyes 4
Dads Pates 3.5
Rolly Mercado 3.5
Diooy Bartolome 3
Fred Marasigan 3
Jun Emutan 2.5
Stanley Sawit 2.5
Jun Alejandro 2.5
Silver Salgado 2
Bamra Bucay 1



Some of the players in action during last week's Filcheck tournament matches.



Borigas snaps Vendiola's winning string

THE penultimate round of the First Rated Chess Tournament organized by the Filipino Chess Club, in Kuwait (Filcheck) was held at the New Kabayan Restaurant on Friday.

Veteran Edwin Borigas put a stop to the winning streak of Ingemar "Ing" Vendiola by defeating the latter in 40 moves of a Benoni defence making the last round an open race for the top four players. Vendiola, who now has 5 points, still hangs on to the lead in Group A along with top favourite Niel Dumlaio who bested Rading Moje in 41 moves of a Budapest defence. In second place is Borigas with 4 points. Trailing closely behind with 4 points apiece are Danilo Calasin, who won by default over Ali Macayan and Rene Mostreals, who outplayed Thony Monreal in 40 moves of a Sicilian-Moroczy-Bind.

Also in Group A, Sammy Aureliano who defeated Arnel Matutino in 34 moves of a Queen's Gambit decline while Rolly Boado and Rey Mangoriong won over their respective rivals Ariel Martinez and Ver

Farralles by default.

In Group B, Gil Opiana continued to hold on to his unbeaten lead with 6 straight wins by outwitting Robert Vargas' Benoni defense in just 37 moves. Running second place with 5 points is Hussain Ahmad who repulsed the Sicilian Defence of Dads Pates 40 moves.

In other games, Bernard de los Reyes and Mel Espinosa scored a point each against Diony Bartolome and Stanley Sawit respectively to keep their contention alive. They now share third place with 4 points each together with Vargas.

The final and deciding round will be played on Friday, 6th April at the Kabayan Restaurant from 12.00 Noon. As per tournament rules, players with equal final scores shall ranked by the Bucholz score then by the median Bucholz score.

The champion and the three runner-ups of each group will each receive a trophy donated by Trico (No-Kilo) International and valuable gift items from Seven-Up Bottling Company and Adawlah Universal Elec-

tronics, distributor of Kasparov chess computers.

Awarding ceremonies has been scheduled for Thursday, April 12, during the "Black and White Nite" which will also feature the induction of the club's first set of officers. Expected to grace the affair are the officials of the Philippine embassy, tournament sponsors and prominent leaders of the Filipino community.

Meanwhile, Filcheck would like to congratulate its members Rolly Mercado and Stanley Sawit who were adjudged champion and first runner up, respectively, in the recently concluded Inter-Department Chess Tournament at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel. The tournament which lasted two months was participated by more than 20 hotel employees of different nationalities.

Final round schedule Friday, April 6, 1990
Group B (12:00 Nn)
W vs B 9: 4: 5; 6: 2; 15: 20: 7: 13: 16: 17: 14: 18:
Group A (3:00 pm)
W vs B 11: 16: 3: 7; 18: 2: 11: 2: 13: 8:

17: 15: 9: 4.

Standings after sixth round

Group A
Ingemar Vendiola 5 points
Niel Dumlaio 5
Edwin Borigas 4.5
Rene Mostreals 4
Danny Calasin 4
Thony Monreal 3
Sammy Aureliano 3
Ali Macayan 3
Rolly Boado 3
Rading Moje 3
Arnel Matutino 2.5
Rey Mangoriong 2.5
Ariel Martinez 2
Jess Betguen 1.5

Group B
Gil Opiana Jr 6 points
Hussain Ahmad 5
Mel Espinosa 4
Robert Vargas 4
Bernard de los Reyes 4
Dads Pates 3.5
Rolly Mercado 3.5
Diooy Bartolome 3
Fred Marasigan 3
Jun Emutan 2.5
Stanley Sawit 2.5
Jun Alejandro 2.5
Silver Salgado 2
Bamra Bucay 1

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